

# WHITE POLE MEETING HOUSE

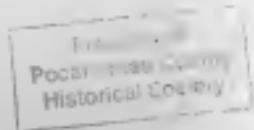
HILLSBORO, WEST VIRGINIA



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Historical Society

THE  
WHITE POLE MEETING HOUSE  
HILLSBORO, WEST VIRGINIA

BY  
FRANK A. JOHNSON (Chairman of the  
Methodist Historical Society)



FRANKLIN, WEST VIRGINIA  
1965

PREFACE

Many factors enter into the making of a Church history, but the greatest factor in the building of the White Pole Meeting House was the experience pioneer John McNeal had with God. His great deliverance, sincerity and strength caused him to carry out a pledge to God.

It may be that in old Scotland the McNeals were Presbyterians and after suffering severe hardships came to the new world and as some one has said, "Took to the Methodist preaching." Martha Davis, of Wales, had been inspired by the Methodist. The Bible had become her guide and she brought it with her for life's guidance into the new lands as a source of strength and comfort in her new home. With John McNeal, she became a forceful cornerstone in the establishment of Methodism in the Meeting House on Mount Tabor close to their wilderness cabin.

The Kinniseans, of English background, all, at first, followed the Methodist way. The Hillsboro group of the Beard Family came largely from Renick's valley where they were Methodist. Here, they married with the Poages, who were staunch Presbyterians. The Hills and the Burnises, among the first families, like wise were Methodist. The first Collisons came as Quakers. They invited the Methodist ministers to preach in their homes and for years have held the Methodist beliefs. Hardesty in his encyclopaedia gives four families as the original proprietors of the village of Hillsboro as follows: John Hill, Davis Poage, Nathaniel Kinnison and James Lewis. Of these only the Poages were Presbyterians.

The early Methodists were not entangled by ecclesiasticism as were the other early Churches of the frontier and for that reason they soul follow the settlers into the Western Wilderness. So in West Virginia today nearly fifty per cent of all Church membership is Methodist. I.

1792 there were only eight known Methodist in America, but in thirty-eight years they could be found from Maine to Florida and west to the Mississippi river. In twenty years, or by 1798, the membership of the Greenbrier Circuit of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Western Virginia was 215 and at Academy fifteen. I am afraid we have not continued with the energy and foresight of our forerunners.

This history has been made by the people of the Little Levels community and by the many devout ministers of the Gospel that have been sent here to guide them.

Permission has been given by various authors of late date for quotations given in this history and I have tried to give credit where due. However, some information has been absorbed by the author from many sources over the years until it is impossible to give the exact source of some descriptions.

The author is deeply indebted to Miss Martha Beard for her help in typing and arranging of materials and to the following:

1. Gilbert Morrison for Church records of Wesley Chapel.
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Frank A. Johnson

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## THE WHITE POLE MEETING HOUSE

### CHAPTER I

#### LOCATION OF THE "WHITE POLE MEETING HOUSE"

In the mystic ages of the past the mountains were made by God's hand. God smoothed out some valleys in what we know today as the Allegheny mountains. The Great Levels were so made in the region of Frankfort and Lewisburg in Greenbrier County, West Virginia. The same action took place, yet on a smaller scale, which produced that is called the Little Levels in Pocahontas County, West Virginia. Through both regions flows the Greenbrier river. It was named by Colonel John Lewis, who had been grievously entangled by the tines of such a brier in this territory. 1. Through the Little Levels section flow three creeks into the Greenbrier river: Stephen Hole Run flows out of a cave which was for a short time in 1751-1752 the home of Stephen Sewell, for whom it is named, one of the first settlers of what is now Pocahontas County, West Virginia; Stamping Creek, so named for the stamping of the thundering herds at their watering places; Locust Creek named for the great number of locust trees that stood around the head and banks of this stream. Hill's Creek, in the Lelicia section near the homestead of our Pioneer Richard Hill, disappears under the mountain and it is believed that it finally emerges from the base of Droop mountain as Locust Creek. It was to this region that the wandering steps of our Church forefathers were directed by an unmoving Providence.

On John Lewis' and his son Andrew's preliminary trip through here in 1751, they met Jacob Marlin, for whom Marlinton is named, and Stephen Sewell, afores mentioned, in what is now the town of Marlinton. 2,3.

1. Rose W. Fry, "Recollections of the Rev. John McElhenny, D.D.", (Richmond, 1893) pp. 107-108.

2. William Price, "History of Pocahontas County, West Virginia", (Marlinton, 1901) pp. 105-107.

2.  
They had come to make surveys for the Greenbrier Land Company of the one hundred thousand acres that had been granted that corporation, #1. They located lands for Moses Moore on Braxo Creek and James Burnside on the Greenbrier river in 1751-1752, and perhaps some for themselves, #2. No more surveys were made near the Little Levels until 1769 or later, #3.

A young man had been picked by our God to fulfill a great plan for His Church here. In the Cumberland Valley, a preacher, Robert Strawbridge, brings for the first time the Methodist preaching to that region, #4. We do not know what attendance was given it by the young man, John McNeill, who had just recently come from his home on the Oconee River in Frederick County, west of Winchester, Virginia. He was a youth of twenty years, strong and quick tempered. In an altercation that took place near what is now Cumberland, Maryland, where he insisted to start for himself a new home, he thought he had killed his antagonist, so he fled in terror for refuge to the Allegheny mountains, #5. Crossing peak after peak, over valleys and through vales, feeding upon roots, game and fish, he finally came to the site of the Little Levels about 1765, #6. With John McNeal began the history of the White Pole Meeting House, which must have been the first Church ever erected west of the Allegheny mountains, #6,7.

Here he felt a sense of security hidden in on every side with mountain ranges. It looked to him as though Canaan was stretched out in the heights of the well watered Alleghanies covered at that time with a great forest of oaks, maples, chestnuts and poplars. Building a bark

\*1. Virgil A. Lewis, "History and Government of West Virginia", (New York, 1822) p.33.

\*2. Henry S. Green, "Biennial Report of the Department of Archives and History of West Virginia", (Charleston, 1914) p.21.

\*3. James E. Armstrong, "History of the Old Baltimore Conference" (Baltimore, 1867) p.70.

\*4. B. N. Hardesty, "Hardesty's Historical and Geographical Encyclopedia" "Special History of the Virginias" "Maps and Histories of Greenbrier, Pocahontas and Monroe Counties, West Virginia" (New York, 1883) p. 365.

\*5. William Price, "History of Pocahontas County" (Marlinton, 1901) p. 136. \*6. Hardesty, p. 365. \*7. Price, p.71.

Was one of the earliest settlers in the wilds of West Virginia and the first several settlers on the Little Kanawha river in Kanawha county. He was born near Winchester, Virginia, but early in his went to the Cumberland valley, in Maryland. Here, was where he settled, he had no alteration with a young man who married in a hand-to-hand fight, and Mr. McNeil, believing that he had killed his antagonist, fled to the wilderness, and after some time spent in wandering until the wild solitudes of the Alleghenies, he came upon what has ever since been known as the Little Levels. It was a beautiful little valley, bounded on all sides by lofty mountain ranges, and here the wanderer had, as he supposed, fugitive from justice, decided to make his future home. Here he reared his lonely cabin. This was about the year 1770, two years after the destruction of the Mingo Creek settlement at Greenbrier, and four years before Col. John Stuart came to the site of old Fort Union.

A short time after Mr. McNeil had occupied his cabin he was out hunting; greatly to his surprise, he met Charles and James Kenison, two white men, who were searching for a suitable site to found a home. From them he learned that the man whom he supposed he had killed, had not died and in fact had not been seriously injured. To him, this was joyful news, for the thought of having caused the death of a fellow-man was the most dreadful to contemplate. The Kenisons accompanied him to his lonely retreat, and with him and a guide soon found land upon which they resolved to settle, then all three returned east of the mountains to make preparations for their removal into the wilderness.

During their stay in the valley Mr. McNeil wooed and won the heart and hand of a lady named Martha Davis. She was born in Wales in 1753, and at an early date had accompanied her parents to Virginia. Now she prepared to go to the wilderness and share the toils and hardships of a pioneer home. The man to whom she had given the best affections of her heart was worthy of the trust. All things were gotten ready, the journey made and the final home was reached. A few acres of land were cleared, and then, Mr. McNeil remembered his duty to his God, and with his own hands reared a small log cabin in which his neighbors and himself might worship him who heareth the ravens when they cry, and who waketh over the wanderer in the wilderness or the mariner upon the ocean. This temple dedicated by its builder to the worship of the Builder of the Universe was called the White Pole Church, and this, is all probability, the first ever erected west of the Alleghany mountains.

At length Dunmore's war broke out, and Mr. McNeil, together with his neighbors, the Kenisons, repaired to Camp Union, situated, and accompanied General Lewis to Point Pleasant, where they participated in the bloody battle of October 10, 1774. During their absence a child of Mr. McNeil died, and the mother, heroic as she was, constructed a rude coffin, dug a narrow grave, and with her own hands laid the infant away to rest.

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Lean-to against a low knoll on the south side, opposite what now is the McNeil Cemetery, (Called a "camp" by Winnie Wallace in "History of the Hillsboro Community" p.13) he began to live a precarious existence as a fugitive from justice. He knew not of his dreams of the future. Guilt as his conscience made him very humble and cautious.

Again God moved, and two brothers, Charles and Jacob Kinnison, #1,2. also of the Cacapon valley having heard of the good lands from a demented neighbor (#3.) decided upon an exploration of the wilds of the western wilderness. On exploring, they came upon John McNeil as he was hunting game, etc. He was quickly recognized and hailed. For him there was no escape, but the news was good. His antagonist was not dead. The wounds had not even been serious; therefore, John McNeil was a free man and he could return without fear to his old home.

What joy! What relief! How good God had been! I can almost see him embracing his friends in his new found peace. For awhile they shared his lean-to and assisted him in building a cabin. He, in turn, persuaded them of the good land and helped them locate favorable home sites.

Then the three made a journey back to the Cacapon valley for the expressed purpose of preparing to establish permanent homes west of the mountains. There John met a young Welsh girl by the name of Martha Davis. She was of sturdy stock, religious, just and good. #5. Martha had been born in Wales January 28, 1742 at about eight o'clock in the morning. She was the daughter of Thomas and Anne Davis. #6. She had

\*1. William Price, p.136.

#2. Mary Isetta Wallace, "History of Hillsboro Community" p.15.

3. William Price, p. 149.

4. Wallace, p. 14.

5. William Price, p. 137.

#6. Old Welsh Bible owned by Miss Mary Thrasher, Bridgewater, Va. (fly leaf) This Bible is very old and has bound within its covers the Four Gospels and the book of Psalms. It does not have any of the writings of the apostle Paul or the other general epistles.

brought with her to this country her Welsh Bible from the region where the Methodist, Charles Wesley and Howell Harris, had preached the Gospel <sup>and</sup> to thousands of her countrymen.

John McNeil likely attended "meeting" with this devout young woman, and she being convinced of his sincerity and trustworthiness accepted his suit and determined to face life with him in West Augusta. After the wedding she accompanied him to this trackless wilderness - facing privation and lack of comforts in the little cabin, to walk during the day in apprehension of the Indians and at night-time to rest with him by the fireside hearing the densions of the wild, send out their blood curdling cries as they sought their prey. She remembered God and His Word and so carried to her new home in the Little Levels her Bible to add to her spiritual well-being. A descendant tells that she also brought a tow tick from her old Virginia home for their physical comfort.

Charles Kinnison was successful in wooing. He won his bride, Miss Martha Day, whose mother had sometime previously been killed by an Indian raiding party. <sup>1.</sup> At the same time Martha had been captured but was rescued by her brother, John, accompanied in the rescue by twenty pioneer neighbors who followed the Indians. <sup>2.</sup> As a bride Martha, too, came to the Little Levels with Charles the same year.

Jacob Kinnison married and established his home east of the present town of Hillsboro, on the farm later owned by the late Nathaniel Kinnison. (It is now owned by Clarence Beard, Forest Beard, Mrs. Snowden Rose, Gay Pyles and others.) The Kinnisons continued to labor and neighbor with John McNeil until each was contented in his cabin and had sufficient land cleared to raise crops to supplement the supply of

<sup>1.</sup> L. William Price, p. 150.

<sup>2.</sup> F. B. Kegley, "History of the Virginia Frontier" (Roanoke, 1938) John Day's account.

game and fish so plentiful in this region. \*

With the settling of these pioneers began the history of Methodism in the Little Levels. For John McNeal, soon after his home was established, in thanksgiving for his wonderful deliverance, built a cabin (as the historian, Hardesty, says,) "in which his neighbors and he might worship Him who heareth the ravens when they cry, and who watcheth over the wanderer in the wilderness, or the mariner upon the sea." \*

The site chosen for this house of worship was the sentinel-like summit of a steep knoll above his cabin, (in that is now the McNeal cemetery) and from it could be seen to the north, the south, the east and the rest the beautiful Levels and the surrounding mountains. This hill was named "Mount Tabor" indicating "a place of pilgrimage," and "the scene of transfiguration." "Tabor and Hermon shall rejoice in Thy name." (Psalms 89:12)

We know not the exact date, but upon it, "abor John McNeal built with his own hands a structure which came to be known as the "White Pole Meeting House." This was, in all probability, to house the oldest continuing Methodist congregation west of the Allegheny mountains. Of course, this Church -- as a building -- does not stand today; but in truth, a Church is not just a building --, but its people. That Church still stands. It has never fallen by the wayside. Since, before the Revolutionary War, it has been continually on the battle front against sin and wickedness. "The LORD's portion is His people." (Deuteronomy 32:9) \*

It has been said that our Church's claim to being the oldest in the trans-Allegheny territory is based upon "tradition". "Tradition"

\*L. H. H. Hardesty, Hardesty's Historical and Geographical Encyclopedia "Special Histories of the Virginias" "Maps and Histories of Greenbrier, Roanoke and Monroe Counties, West Virginia" (New York, 1893) p. 385.

2. King James Version of the Holy Bible.

actually means "information passed on from generation to generation by word of mouth" and can or cannot be based upon fact. Since the knowledge that we have concerning John McNeal's building of the White Pine Meeting House soon after settling in the Little Levels has been passed on from generation to generation of descendants who occupy the home of their pioneer ancestor, it would seem that that information might be accepted as factual -- especially, as there has never been any substantial modification of it. Hardesty records it as factual in his history. Written records also state that "soon after his (John) return to the Levels" or "after clearing a FEW acres of ground" (1,2.) John McNeal built a cabin for the worship of God.<sup>1</sup> Certainly those statements indicate that only a short time lapsed after the establishing of his home before he demonstrated his gratitude to God for delivering him from a terrible thought that he had taken the life of one of his fellowmen. Too, it is most likely that a man of John McNeal's spiritual stature would in haste, express by works as well as by words of praise, his thanks for God's safe keeping of his wife, his son and his home in the wilds of western Virginia.<sup>2</sup> Perhaps, the very fact that he named his first son, "Abraham" was an indication of his religious cravings, for as Abraham he had gone out not knowing whither he went; as Abraham he had been led into a good land; and as Abraham he builded an altar.

The most convincing evidence of the early presence of the White Pine Meeting House is based upon an occurrence that took place during the service of John McNeal in Lord Baltimore's Jar. Hearing the call of his Commonwealth to protect the frontier from Indian depredations, he, along with William Clendenning, Joseph Day, George Clendenning, and

<sup>1</sup>1. Hardesty, p. 385.

<sup>2</sup>2. James E. Armstrong, History of the Old Baltimore Conference (Baltimore, 1907) p. 70.

<sup>3</sup>3. Old Welsh Bible (Date of sons birth and other data. This is on the fly leaf.)

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The grave cover of the baby boy of John and Martha McNeal. Buried by mother back of White Pole Meeting House in October, 1774, while John was at Point Pleasant



TOMBSTONE OF  
ABRAHAM McNEEL

In the vacant place back  
of this tombstone is the  
site of the White Pole  
Meeting House.

TOMBSTONES OF JOHN & MIRIAM JORDAN

These stones mark the graves and  
the site of the Hill Run Church.  
This is in the midst of an acre of  
land given by John and Miriam for  
Church.



These tombstones of John and Martha McNeal are beside the baby boy's stones above. The baby's stone is between John's and their oldest son, Abraham's artistically carved stone (See left). Martha's is the large right stone with cover.



7.

Charles Kinnison enlisted in John Stewart's Company of Greenbrier Volunteers in the Betetourt Regiment and marched to Point Pleasant where battle raged on October 10, 1774. #1,2. During this absence of her husband, Martha Davis McNeal gave birth to a son which soon sickened and died. She, with her own hands prepared the body for burial, dug a grave on Mount Tabor and there buried her child. #3. Without doubt the white Pole Meeting House was then standing, for burial in church-yards was the custom of the day. And it is hard to believe that any mother would carry her baby for burial to such a lonely knoll, even though beautiful, unless she could find spiritual solace there. May have seen this little grave just back of where the White Pole Meeting House stood. The late Mrs. Lydia Sydenstricker told me of being shown the grave. (Please see the photograph of this grave beside that of John McNeal's grave in page of illustrations.)

The fact that it is called a "Meeting House" would indicate that it was built before the Act of Toleration in 1785. #4,5. It is an old or inadequate building when the deed was made to the Methodist Episcopal Church by John and Martha McNeal in 1790. For the deed insists upon the building of a new Church. #6. If it had not been built until 1790 neither might have been true. There are several interpretations that could be given Bishop Whatecoat's account in his Journal of the "exhortations to N. C." in Little Levels in 1790. #7. One is that the letters

1. Virgil A. Lewis, "History and Government of West Virginia" (New York, 1923).
2. Lewis, "History of the Battle of Point Pleasant" (Charleston, 1909).
3. Hardesty, p.365
4. Charles H. Ambler, "West Virginia, The Mountain State" (New York, 1933).
5. Lewis, "History and Government of West Virginia" (New York, 1922).
6. Deed for land containing Mt. Tabor Church given to the Methodist Episcopal Church by John and Martha McNeal in 1790. The original deed is in the Methodist Historical at West Virginia Wesleyan College.
7. Richard Whatecoat, "Journal of" August 1, 1789-1790

"N" and "C" in whatcont short hand may mean a new release or setting. Reverend Lawrence Sherwood suggests a "Negro Glass" as there were no servants who were Methodists. Whatcont would not likely be referring to a New Chapel, but to a group of people. The deed of 1799 is the first deed to the Methodist Episcopal Church. Yet we know of a Methodist organization at least as early as 1787.

It is believed by some that William Phoebus established preaching the White Pole Church at about the time traveled this mountain region with Edward Keenan who gave the lot and helped build "Old Rehoboth" was while traveling over Peter's mountain in company with Phoebus the Edward Keenan was converted. \*1,2.

Bennett says in his history that local preacher mainly established Methodism in Botetourt and Greenbrier Counties. \*3,4. When John Smith, the first minister assigned by the Baltimore Conference to this section was in 1787 speaking of "new ground" (\*5) he likely referred to new locations, for already Jacob Cook (\*6) had been preaching for several years. It is quite likely that Valentine Cook, Jr. (\*7) began his ministry during the stay of John Smith on this Circuit. If Jacob Cook preached at the White Pole Meeting House, his ministry came sometime between 1782 and 1787 as did that of Phoebus. The other local preachers (\*8) of Old Rehoboth could have preached here and were of course used in the organization of this charge in 1787. \*9.

\*1. James E. Armstrong, "History of the Old Baltimore Conference" (Baltimore, 1907).

\*2. Rev. Lawrence Sherwood's Letters to Frank A. Johnson.

\*3. Armstrong, p. 272.

\*4. Armstrong, Quote from Bennett p. 336.

\*5. John Smith, "Journal of 1786-1788" p18.

\*6. Armstrong, p. 71.

\*7. "Minutes of the General Conference and the Baltimore Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church" (1793-1842).

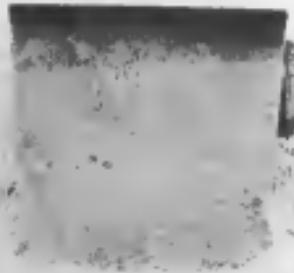
\*8. Armstrong, p. 7.

\*9. Sherwood, "Letters"

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The soldiers retraced their sojourn. The struggle between  
the Mother Country and her American Colonies was rapidly com-  
ing to a crisis, and they at once crossed the mountains and joined  
the patriot army, in which they served until they won the glorious  
battle of Yorktown in 1781 the recognized nation of 1783.

If the traveler who visits the beautiful little mountain town of  
Gilberton will stroll a mile and a half to the north of that village  
he will reach a beautiful cemetery in which repose many of the  
pioneers of Pennsylvania county. There sleep John McNeal and  
his wife, Charles and Edward Kessinger and their wives, and several  
other heroes of Point Pleasant and parents of the Revolution.  
No historian has inscribed their names high upon the pillar of  
fame, but their memory lives where they would have wished it to  
live—they themselves first planted the banner of civilization.



The gravestone of John McNeal, age 80 years.

It is said that Bishop Asbury the great apostle of Methodism,  
was the first minister who visited the Little Levels, and that as  
early as 1789 he founded the little "Wine Pole" Church,  
erected by John McNeal, as abovementioned. The tradition  
is doubtless true, for it is substantiated by general records of the  
church. It appears that the first organization was perfected here  
is the last named year, and at the time the members composing  
the church were John McNeal, Martha McNeal, James Lewis and  
wife, Alexander Waddell and wife, Charles Kessinger, Jacob Kern-  
singer, Mrs. James Brinzel, John Switzer and wife, Richard Hill,  
Nancy Hill, and Abraham McNeal and wife.

Hillboro, the only village in the district, is situated on the  
Little Levels, 24 miles northeast of Lewisburg, and 17 miles  
southwest of Hintonville, the county seat. It was laid out in  
1848, by Joseph Bowen, a Presbyterian minister and school  
teacher. The original proprietors were John Hill, Davis Poage,  
Nathaniel Kessinger and James Lewis.

Photostate of part of page 369 of Hardesty's,  
containing the record of membership of church.

## CHAPTER II

## THE CIRCUIT RIDER, JOHN SMITH AND BISHOP ASBURY

Now begins our story of the Methodist Circuit riders who came here. Paul Reff Barber, in his book, "The Methodist Meeting House" says, "The circuit riders were pioneers. They did not wait until cities were founded to proclaim their message; they went searching for souls on every frontier." Again he says, "When Bishop Asbury saw people almost footless, shelterless, clothless, toiling along on foot or horseback across the Allegheny mountains, he wrote in his Journal, 'We must send preachers after these people.' Keeping up with the frontier became an obsession." Stephen A. Douglas once declared that the Methodist preacher with his saddle bags carried civilization throughout the west.

Until 1787 this region was missionary territory or was under the directorate of the Bedford Circuit, but in that year the General Conference divided it into the Bedford and the Greenbrier Circuits. The General Minutes gives Greenbrier's total membership as one hundred. <sup>1</sup> The oldest documentary record that we have names John Smith as the first rider appointed to the Greenbrier Circuit. He was assigned by the General Conference which convened July 3, 1787.

It was on September 19, 1787, that he arrived in the Little Levels for the first time, having come here from Anthony's Creek. He stayed all night at the home of James Callison (a Quaker) where he preached the next evening. He then rode thirty miles to Boggs' at the mouth of Spring Creek where he preached and stayed that night. <sup>2</sup> It was on October 17, 1787, that he first came to John McNeels where he preached and remained two days. <sup>3</sup> At no time does he tell us about the McNeels

<sup>1</sup> Minutes, "General Conference and Baltimore Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church" (1783-1848) 1787.

<sup>2</sup> "Journal of John Smith 1786-1788," p. 21.

<sup>3</sup> Smith, p. 31.

themselves or of the church in which services were held. This was unusual, for early official records very often, instead of listing the name of the church, gave the name of the frontiersman in whose house services were first held. However, he did continue to come regularly their place for services when the weather permitted him to do so.

His various visits at McNeel's and vicinity are mentioned as follows in his Journal:

"Wed. 17 (October, 1787) Rode about 30 miles over hills and mountains from Anthony's Creek to the Little Levels - - -

"Thurs. 18 Preached at John McNeals there was many attended several were affected and I hope my labor was not in vain. - - -

(It seems that he came directly to McNeel's this time for he preached at James Calligan's on Friday 19th) \*1.

"The 16/17 (Nov.) Preached in the Little Levels. \*2.

"Wed April 2 (1788) Rode about 30 Miles over mountains about day got to the Greenbrier River but cou'd not cross Lodg'd at C. Hamilton

"Thurs (April) Swam our horses across the river and rode up to the Little Levels to a rich poor man's. He had great possessions of land and stock yet appears to have nothing. When we got there they had a sick cow in the house with them which made it appear as if I had got into a cow pen. My Master had to lay down amongst beast and should I think hard. Lord help me to bear all things to thy Glory - - -

"Sat. (April) 5 Preached at Clendenin's Fort Many attended and I believe the spirit was in the Word and reached many hearts from thence rode 30 miles down again Lodg's at Watt(s) - - (Probably at the mouth of Spring Creek) \*4.

"In July met with Mr. Asbury and traveled with him through my

\*John Smith, Journal of, (1786-1788) p. 31  
2Smith, p. 33.

3. Smith, p. 52.  
4. " P. 53.

old. This was his  
method of visiting the  
circuits, etc. (It is of interest to know that Bishop Asbury is said to  
have, during his episcopate, traveled 237,000 miles, preached 1600  
sermons, ordained 4000 ministers and sat as president of 224 Annual  
Conferences.)

John Smith was a man of weak constitution (#2) but usually traveled  
thirty or forty miles a day on horseback, sometimes preaching two or  
three times.

At a Conference held at Rehebath on the 5th and 6th of July, 1778,  
at a Quarterly meeting, Bishop Asbury ordained our pastor, John Smith, a  
deacon. Thus he became the first Methodist preacher to be ordained west  
of the Allegheny mountains. #3. He says of this, "The 5 & 6 days of  
July we held Q. Meeting in the Sinks of the Greenbrier where I was  
ordained Deacon of that God may make me faithful to my trust. From  
thence on the 6th I set out for Philadelphia." #4.

On the visit to McNeel's on July 1788 he was accompanied by Bishop  
Asbury, William Phoebe and Valentine Cook, Jr., #5. William Phoebe,  
became a great Doctor of Medicine in New York and Valentine Cook, Jr.,  
just in the beginning of his career, was to become one of the greatest  
preachers of his day. Rev. John Smith in his Journal never mentions re-  
ceiving any members at McNeel's. Yet it seems as though he may have had  
a very fruitful ministry. At the close of the year there were fifteen  
members of the White Pole Church and a total membership on the Green-  
brier Circuit of 215. #6, #7.

On Tuesday July 6, 1788, Bishop Francis Asbury in his Journal says,  
"Reached McNeel's on the Little Levels where the whole settlement case

#1. John Smith's Journal p. 55.

#2. Abel Stevens, "History of American Methodism" (New York), p. 147.

#3. Lawrence Sherwood, "John Smith, Pioneer Circuit Rider".

#4. Smith, p. 55.

#5. "Bishop Francis Asbury Journal" (July 1788).

#6. Hardisty, p. 369.

#7. Minutes "General Conference and Baltimore Conference of the  
Methodist Episcopal Church" (1783-1848).

together, with whom I found freedom on Matti, 11:26-30. Our Brother Phoebe had to answer questions propounded to him till evening<sup>\*\*1</sup>. The Table Grace sung by Asbury was:

"Be present at our table, Lord,  
Be here and everywhere adored;  
Be here to bless and grant that we  
May feast in Paradise with Thee." \*2.

The organization of this Church was likely perfected at this time or earlier because of the question period conducted by the Rev. William Phoebe. The membership of the "White Pole Church" on this the first visit of Asbury according to the church records were: John McNeal, Martha McNeal, James Lewis, and wife, Alexander Wedell and wife, Charles and Jacob Kinnison, Mrs. James Brinnell, John Switzer and wife, Richard Hill, Nancy Hill, and Abraham McNeal and wife. \*3.

Martha McNeal(\*4,5,6) was the wife of John McNeal - both pioneers. James Lewis was among the pioneers, and his land joined that of John McNeal. \*7,8,9. Alexander Wedell was a "settler of an early date" in vicinity of Marvin Chapel. He thought that the Little Levels was "a level and glady". His wife was a Miss Rouss. \*10. Charles Kinnison, wife, Martha Day, may have been dead at this time. \*11. We do not know any thing concerning Jacob Kinnison's wife. Richard Hill is the last pioneer, and his wife, "Nancy" was the second living daughter of John McNeal and Martha. \*12,13,14,15,16.

\*1. Bishop Asbury Journal (1788) \*13. Genealogies of McNeal Family.  
2. Armstrong, p.183. \*14. William Price, p. 116-125.  
3. Hardesty, p.369. \*15. Alon. M. S. Vithers, "Chron.  
4. Armstrong, p.70. \*16. of Border Warfare" (Cinc.,  
5. William Price p.107, 142-143. 1912) p. 291.  
6. Old Welsh Bible (Fly leaf) \*17. Old Welsh Bible, (Fly leaf)  
7. Christie Lewis' Will. \*8. \*9.  
8. \*10. Deed made by John and Martha McNeal for Mount Tabor Church 18.  
11. William Price, p.479.

10. William Price, p.479.  
11. Genealogies of the John McNeal Family in the possession of Mrs. Edwin Bruffey, Beard, West Virginia.  
12. Genealogies of the Richard Hill Family in the possession of the family of the late Guy Kinnison.

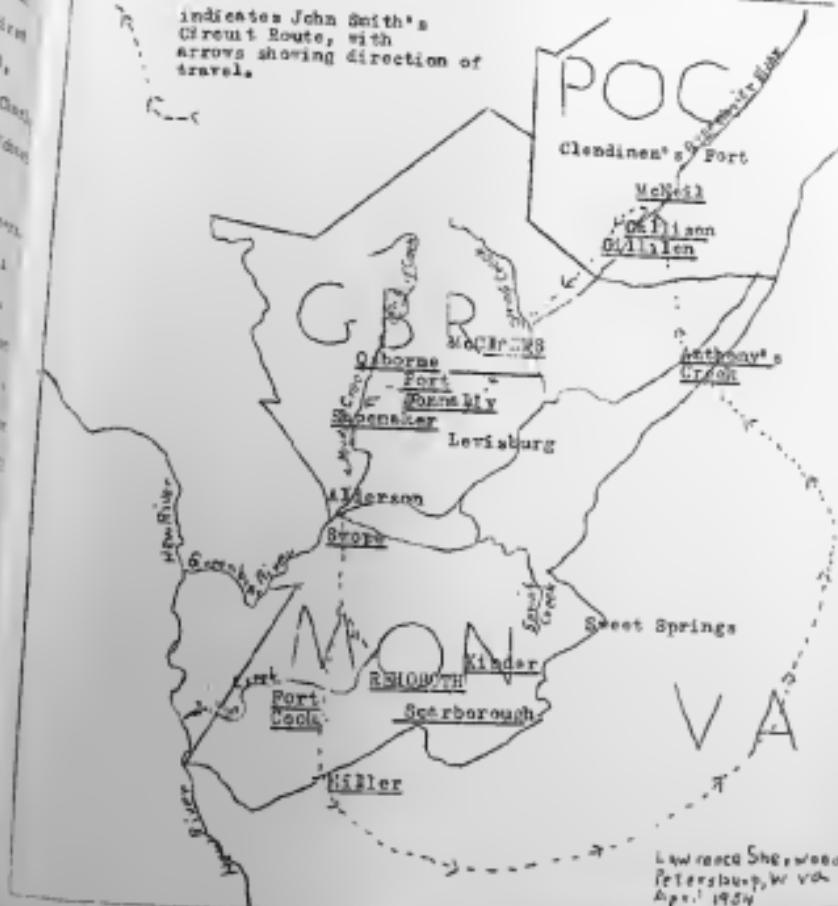
A reason Method First include	SUN
MON	2
TUES	2
WED	1
THURS	1
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SAT	

11

GREENBRIER CIRCUIT...ITS FIRST YEARS 1787-88  
 A reconstruction of the Circuit Plan on the Greenbrier Circuit of the  
 Methodist Episcopal Church as it probably appeared at the end of its  
 first year. Only regular preaching places in present West Virginia  
 included. Made from the manuscript "Journal of John Smith"

1st Week	2nd Week	3rd Week	4th Week
MON Rehoboth	TUES until he returned	WED Anthony's C.	THURS Visits
TUES Kinder	WED of	THURS Hellung	FRI MON
WED Scarborough	THURS the	THURS Donnelly	THURS TUES
THURS Fort Cook	FRI third	THURS Osborne	SAT WED
FRI Miller	SAT week	THURS Shanesaker	SUN THURS
SAT Nitro	SUN when	THURS Snipe	MON FRI
SUN Virginia	SUN Gilligan	SAT	SAT SAT

indicates John Smith's  
 Circuit Route, with  
 arrows showing direction of  
 travel.



Lawrence Sherwood  
 Petersburg, W. Va.  
 April 1954

Abraham McNeal was the oldest son of John and Martha McNeal and their first child. #1,2. His wife was Margaret Lamb. #1,3.

For one month, (December, 1787) Rev. Jeremiah Weston of the Holston Circuit traded with John Smith and served as pastor of this Charge. #3.

The Reverend John Kerr Fleming in his "History of Oak Grove Presbyterian Church", Hillsboro, West Virginia, says, "There is ample reason to believe that the Methodist Work is the oldest religious work in the Little Levels section." #4. The Reverend John McCue started work in this region for the Presbyterians and had previously organized the Old Stone Church in Lewisburg, West Virginia. #5. The first documentary reference to the Little Levels Presbyterian Church is in Vol. 1. "Minutes of the Lexington Presbytery", October 21, 1788, and contains the order in the action of Presbytery: "Mr. John McCue is appointed to preach one Sabbath in the Sinks of Greenbrier, another in the Little Levels and catechise both." #6. As has been said the first documentary evidence of Methodist services in Little Levels is found in John Smith's Journal when he first came to James Callison's September 19, 1787. #7. He had been appointed to the charge the 3rd of July, 1787. #8. Then on October 17, 1787 he first arrived at John McNeal's where he preached October 19, 1787. This service antedates the appointment of John McCue by a year and three days.

#1. Old Welsh Bible (Fly leaf)

2. William Price, *History of Pocahontas County West Virginia* (Karlinson, 1901) p.22.

3. John Smith, "Journal of John Smith" (1786-1788) p. 35.

4. John Kerr Fleming, "History of Oak Grove Church" p.16.

5. Rose W. Fry, "Recollections of the Rev. John McElhenny, D.D." (Richmond, 1893) p. 94.

6. Fleming, p.19.

7. Smith, p. 21.

8. Minutes, "General Conference and Baltimore Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church." (1783-1848).

## CHAPTER III.

## OTHER CIRCUIT RIDERS

John Smith was followed by Richard Swift and Benjamin Carter, <sup>and</sup>  
Circuit Riders in 1788.

In 1790 James Biggin and Jesse Richardson came here. Jeremiah Abi, <sup>in</sup>  
was presiding Elder. (The term "Presiding Elder" first occurs in the  
"Old Minutes" of that year.)

These men were followed by Lasley Matthews, who had been converted  
from Roman Catholicism and "was a wonderful man of God". During his  
ministry here on Saturday, July 17, and Sunday, July 18, 1790 Bishop  
Asbury said that he reached McNeels in the Little Levels and stated,  
"We had a warm sermon at McNeel's at which many were highly offended,  
but I hope their false peace is broken. There are many bears in this  
part of the Country; not long since a child from this neighborhood was  
killed by one." (For local details of this bear story see Supplement.)

In 1791 Salathiel Weeks and George Martin were assigned to travel  
the Greenbrier Circuit.

On May 22, 1792 at Rehoboth, in the Greenbrier District, James was  
admitted on trial. John Kobler, remaining on Trial, was received in  
Full Connection and ordained Deacon. He, by the request of Bishop  
Asbury, related to the Conference his religious experience. On Tuesday  
he was examined first, as to debt; second, his faith in Christ; and  
third, his pursuit after holiness. John Kobler was then assigned to  
this Circuit with no Elder. <sup>1,2,3</sup> This year Bishop Asbury visited the  
Little Levels on Friday May 26th. He recorded "We rode twenty-six miles  
to Little Levels. Oh what a solitary country is this". <sup>4</sup>

<sup>1.</sup> Stith Mend, "The Journal of Stith Mend" (1792-1793)

<sup>2.</sup> "General Minutes of General Conference and Baltimore Conference  
Methodist Episcopal Church" (1793-1848)

<sup>3.</sup> Armstrong, p.p.108-109.

<sup>4.</sup> Francis Asbury Journal (1792)

Francis Asbury came as circuit rider in 1793, and was followed by Anthony Spike in 1794 and James Green in 1795. William Spencer arrived in 1796. etc. In that year Bishop Asbury again visited McNeel's with D. Pitt. He said, "Sunday, May 29, 1796 I was very weak in body and mind at McNeel's in Little Level. \*2.

In 1797 the membership of the Circuit was 250, and Richard Bird was sent to travel on this work. \*1. The salary of the preacher was sixty-four dollars for that year.

James Ward, "a holy man of God", came as circuit rider in both 1798 and 1799. Richard Montcoat was Presiding Elder. It was finally during their ministry that a deed was made the "Nineteenth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety nine, between John McNeel and Martha, his wife, of the County of Bath and State of Virginia, on the one part, — sold to Thos. Scott, John Pennell, Richard Hill, Griffith Evans, Jacob Kinnison, Alex. Waddell, William Waddell, James Lewis, and Jonathan McNeel, Trustees in truth" and "their Successors in office forever," "a certain lot containing and laid out One Acre or land together with the Meeting House known by the name of Mt. Tabor for receiving the use of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America." (When the "One Acre" was laid out it was surveyed so accurately that inches and even half-inches were measured and recorded.) \*3.

As to these trustees, we know that Richard Hill and Griffith Evans were sons-in-law of John McNeel, and that Jonathan McNeel was the son of the pioneer Thomas McNeill of Buckeye, a half brother of John McNeel. \*4. William Waddell was the son of the pioneer Alexander Waddell, who

\*1. "Minutes of General Conference Methodist Episcopal Church" (1795)

\*2. Francis Asbury's Journal (1796)

\*3. Deed of Mount Tabor Church.

\*4. James E. Armstrong, "History of the Old Baltimore Conference"

(Baltimore, 1907) p. 70.

was both a member and a Trustee. \*1,2,3. A precedent was broken when James Ward was assigned for a second year's service on the Greenbrier Circuit. In May of 1800 Elder Richard Thatcoat of this District was elected Bishop by the Baltimore Conference. \*4.

In the last of this year (1800) the Circuit's name became the Greenbrier and Bottstourt Circuit." Christopher S. Hoering, Daniel, and Samuel S. Steward were appointed to travel it, \*4. Their salaries were raised to eighty dollars each a year with fourteen dollars, ~~allowance~~, <sup>allowance</sup> for traveling expense for each preacher's child up to seven years of age, and twenty-four dollars for those up to fourteen years of age.

The Circuit in 1801 was placed in the Richmond District of the Baltimore Conference, and Joseph Fennel was assigned rider. In 1802 Josiah Phillips became the Circuit itinerant. <sup>4</sup> By 1803 the Greenbrier District entered as a District the Baltimore Conference and James Smith was assigned to ride with James Ward as Presiding Elder. <sup>5</sup> This became one of the greatest years in the Little Levels. Bennett record ed: "At a Quarterly Meeting held at Little Levels in Greenbrier, one hundred were converted in six days." <sup>6</sup> At different Camp meetings in Botetourt and Greenbrier, five hundred were converted. <sup>7</sup> Asbury's sermon and prayer in the year 1790 must have born fruit. Revivals seem to sweep the countryside and it is said that even the Oak Grove Presbyterian Church at Hillsboro, West Virginia was visited with those bodily exercises called "the jerks". <sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup>1. William Price, pp. 479-480.  
2. Hardesty, 1262.

2. *BRDFesty, 1969*

Deed to Mount Tabor Church

4. Minutes: "General Conference and Baltimore Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church" (1783-1848)  
5. James E. Armstrong, "History of the...  
(Baltimore, 1807)

more, 1907) p. 122.

8. Armstrong, 1122

7. Rose & Fry, "Recollections of the Rev. John McElroy, D.D." (Richmond, 1893) p.103.

In 1804 Frederick Stier and Edmund Henley were assigned to this Circuit. Edmund Henley was a devout but very sickly man. Four years after his ministry here, expecting death, he hurried to his father's home, erected a stand at the family graveyard and preached from it his own funeral to his old neighbors and friends. Soon after he was buried there. \*1,2. Stier and Henley were followed in 1805 by Laskley Mathews, who served here in 1790. This time he had as his assistant, Adam Burke. This Circuit was traveled by Thomas Budd and Robert Bolton in 1806. Paul Hinkle came in 1807 and Eli Towne in 1808.

By 1809 James Watts came with the indefatigable itinerant, Joseph Ceresa, to the Greenbrier Circuit which embraced the whole of the County of Greenbrier, and parts of Giles and Bath. There were twenty-two appointments, each four weeks — some of them fifty miles apart. Ceresa said, "I had been told that it was a rude country and a very hard Circuit." This he found to be true, it being "not very pleasant to use bear meat for both bread and meat." But his recompense was the addition of one hundred fifty souls to the Church. \*3.

The year, 1810 brought to the Little Levels Beverly Daugh, who had joined the Baltimore Conference the previous year. He was sent to Washington in 1811. Later his abilities secured for him many important positions in his Conference, and in 1836 the General Conference elected him Bishop. The Circuit was served in 1811 by Nathaniel B. Mills, 1812 by Benedict Reynolds, 1813 by James Charles, 1814 by Jacob Snyder, 1815 by John Bull and in 1816-1817 by James Watts. (A complete list as far as seems possible of the ministers of the White Pole Church and its successors will be found in the supplement.)

By 1816 several changes had been instituted by the Conference.

\*1. "Minutes of the General Conference" (1783-1848)

\*2. Able Stevens, "History of American Methodism" (New York,)

\*3. Armstrong, p.15.

chief then were the introduction of a course of study for preachers, the forbidding of rented pews in Churches and the allowance of one hundred dollars yearly salary for the preachers. \*1. James Hattie came back as pastor. \*2. He was a native of Greenbrier County and was only five years old when John Smith visited and preached in his home. And Smith came to this Charge with Samuel Montgomery in 1820.

In 1821 the Greenbrier Circuit was transferred from the Baltimore Conference to the Kentucky Conference. Again a precedent was broken for both Smith and Montgomery were to serve a second year. For four years this Circuit belonged to the Kentucky Conference and then returned to the Baltimore Conference in 1825.\*3Samuel Ellis and William McDowell were appointed to ride. The next year the "Greenbrier District was discontinued, and the Circuit came to the Rockingham District and was called the "Warm Spring Charge. In 1827 this Charge was divided into the Greenbrier and Warm Springs Charges with Little Levels in the latter. John Hovell was the first minister ever to serve this Charge three continuous years. \*2.

\*1. James E. Armstrong, "History of the Old Baltimore Conference" (Baltimore, 1807) p. 181.  
 2. Minutes of the "General Conference and Baltimore Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church" (1783-1848)  
 3. Minutes of the Kentucky Conference.

## CHAPTER IV.

## HILL RUN CHURCH

About this time the White Pole Church or Mount Tabor was almost un-  
tenable and plans were made for the erection of a new building on Hill  
Run. Hill Run was just a short distance up over the hill from Port  
Jernside and on what had been the Burnside Farm. As to why the Method-  
ist Episcopal Church was removed three miles from Mount Tabor to the  
other side of the Little Levels I have asked the pioneer descendants,  
the following are their answers: first, the whole people of the Little  
Levels could be better served at this location since this was on the  
old Turnpike or the "great road" as it is called in the deed made in  
January, 1890 between John and Mariah Jordan, and the Trustees of the  
Methodist Episcopal Church of America; second, John Jordan was a  
religious, considerate and influential man. He had been having both  
Presbyterian and Methodist preaching services in his home for many years.  
His wife, Mariah, was the daughter of the pioneer, John McNeel, and a  
staunch Methodist. With the deterioration of the Mount Tabor Church, it  
is likely that he decided to honor his wife by building a house of  
worship near their own home. I believe that the center of population had  
shifted because of the building of a large Methodist Protestant Church  
later near the homestead of the pioneer Charles Callison.

The trustees of this Church were William Edmondson, Andrew Edmon-  
son, John Grimes, Richard Hill, Mark Kinnison, Abraham Hill and Nathaniel  
Kennison. It was deeded to them and "their successors, in office,  
forever in trust, for the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States  
of America." This deed conveyed "one acre of land with the house that  
is built there on for the purpose of Divine worship." \*1.

\*1. Deed Book at Fochontas County Court House, (Marlinton) Deed of  
the Hill Run Methodist Episcopal Church.

At Hill Run can still be seen a small gate enclosed graveyard which is the site of this Church. In it are the graves of John and Marian Jordan. (See photograph on page of illustrations.)

By 1832 the Warm Springs Charge was changed to the Huntersville Charge with the Reverend James Green and the Reverend James Wattis as ministers. In 1835 the Reverend Stephen Smith and the Reverend J. Planter were assigned to ride the Circuit. Mr. Smith is the grandfather of Miss Roberta Rice Smith of the present Wesley Chapel. From her father, Mr. Asbury R. Smith, Miss Smith learned that this Circuit extended up the Greenbrier valley to the top of the Alleghenies, then over in to Bath County, Virginia through Warm Springs and Pot Springs, and down Anthony's Creek to the McMillion Class, in what is now Renick, West Virginia, a three weeks' journey.

The Hill Run Church was used until it was destroyed by fire about 1841. Since then this building has been known locally as the "Burnt Church". As to its destruction there are many legends. The one thing they all have in common is that the fire was of incendiary origin. One story is that a man about ready to build a house had need of many hand-cut nails that it contained. To burn the Church for nails seems almost incredible to us, but we are prone to forget that those were days of scarcity in even the barest necessities of life. Another story results from the feeling concerning slavery. It is said that some Methodist were opposed to slavery and that a pro-slavery resident of the community paid a coon skin cap to a slave to have it burned. The story connected with the actual burning is that the culprit fell over a cliff of rocks while trying to escape from the scene of the crime, and of his injuries being such that the few remaining years of his life he was a helpless cripple.

That story is true no one knows for a search of the County Court's

records until 1848 does not show that anyone was convicted, or tried for the wrong-doing. The reason seems to be that the Methodist felt that God had rated out full justice to the one who had committed such a terrible crime. (Circuit Court Records of the County of Pocahontas, 1839-1948)

After the loss of this Church Methodist services were held in various homes, except for preaching and Quarterly Conference sessions. Through the invitation of the Elders of the Oak Grove Presbyterian (Old Brick) Church services were conducted in their sanctuary until the erection of the Little Level's new Methodist Church, Wesley Chapel.

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CHAPTER V.  
SCHOOLS AND THE PARSONAGE HOUSE

In 1842 there was established in the Little Levels' village of Hillsboro, a school which was to serve as a preparatory school to the University of Virginia. It was called the "Academy" and became the first school of higher learning in Pocahontas County. This same year the village's name was changed to "Academy" and was called by that name until 1914 when it was again given the name of Hillsboro.

At the First Quarterly Conference in July 1846, with the Presiding Elder, the Reverend B. N. Brown, in charge, held in the New Salem (Nor Arbovale) there was allotted the pastor of our Charge, the Reverend Fish, one hundred dollars salary for fuel and table expenses. The following classes were organized for this Charge: W. B. Arbegast, Mt. Zion, Ward Sharp, Hamlin Church, McNeills (probably Swago), Richard Hill (Lobelia), Snedegars, J. E. Moore (Mill Point), New Salem, Herrings, Nathaniel Kennison (Hillsboro) and J. Ruckman (Marvin Chapel). Back Allegheny was added before the year's end. Because of the illness of Brother Fish the year was finished by Rev. J. N. Davis, a local preacher. Mr. John Raugh was also a local preacher of the Charge. For the last quarter of the year Rev. J. N. Davis received for his labor \$3.50. traveling expense and \$40.00. quarterage. The McNeill's class paid that quarter \$1.00, N. Kinnison's \$3.00. and Richard Hill's \$2.50. \*1.

Sometime previous to 1846 the Huntersville Charge had decided to build a parsonage on a lot at New Salem (Arbovale) for the use of its ministers. On June 19, 1847 with John McNeill as secretary and James Clark, as Preacher in charge, "it was unanimously resolved that the erection of a parsonage house on the lot at New Salem be, and is hereby

\*1. "Steward's Book Huntersville Circuit- Baltimore Conference of the United States of America" Book #2 (July 28, 1948-Nov. 13, 1952) pp. 1-1

disannulled and made void; and that the subscription for building the same be also made void and of none effect and that it be destroyed entirely."

On motion, it was ordered that a parsonage house should be built near the Little Levels Academy. The Quarterly Meeting Conference proceeded to appoint James Vanless, John Hill, Abraham Hill, John McNeill, Nathaniel Kinnison, George Burner, William Young, John H. Packman & John Wooddell, the trustees for said Parsonage house. Also appointed: John Hill, William Kinnison, Abraham Hill, Thomas Morrison and John H. Packman, the building committee"\*\*. #1.

The land for this building was deeded to the Methodist Episcopal Church June 24, 1847 by Mr. Nathaniel Kinnison from a direct land grant made to him by the Virginia Commonwealth January 28, 1790. #2.

From this Circuit there had been formed the "Woodsborough" Circuit, and James Wooddell had been appointed by the Quarterly Conference as an agent for settling with the Woodsborough officials, and dividing and receiving the property of its parsonage furnitures. #3.

The Huntersville Circuit parsonage trustees made the following report on September 26, 1849: "First, we have one acre of land (which was given by Mr. Nathaniel Kinnison) for which we have a deed legally executed and committed to record on which we have a house erected 18 by 24 comfortably finished, one good stable, and smoke house. The lot is enclosed with new rails. We have some furniture not however enough for comfort." #4. The amount of the contract for building the parsonage was \$500.00, and all had been paid but \$300.00. This report was signed by John Hill, N. Kinnison and Abraham Hill. #5. In another report we find

- 1. "Steward's Book" #2, p.9.
- 2. "Deed Book Pocahontas County Court House.
- 3. Same as #1.
- 4. "Steward's Book" #2, pp. 22-23
- 5. "Steward's Book" #2, p. 20.

that the parsonage was two stories high and that it had seven windows and one of four-lights. The smoke house was 12 X 24 feet. The stable was 14 X 18 feet with a shed for a carriage. All had clay roofs. The well was twenty-five feet deep. #1.

By December 18, 1847 we knew that our Church on Hill Run had been  
burned for the Fourth quarterly Conference was held in the Old Brick  
Presbyterian Church in the Little Levels. The fact that no mention  
made of its destruction in the Quarterly Conference Minutes in either  
1847 or 1848 would indicate that it had been burned earlier.

Although there had been missionary collections since 1826, the  
Circuit's first one on the records that we have was for the year 1841, when there was received from Hill's Class (Hillsboro) \$1.00, and Lang (Mt. Zion) \$2.00, a total for the Charge of \$3.00. At the same time, there were several Sunday Schools listed but only two were kept open during the winter months. Little Levels had no school because of no meeting place. There had been a record made of the number of books in the various Sunday School libraries.

The Reverend J. B. Clarke moved from Pinecastle, Virginia to this Charge in 1857. The moving expense of \$45.12 was paid by him. The stewards assessed for current expense, on all Church claims and preacher's salary, the following for the Classes of Little Levels for the next year: Collison's \$3.00, Buckman's \$23.00, McNeill's (Stage or Buckeye) \$12.00, Kinnison's \$42.00, Richard Hill's (Lobelia) \$52.00., New Salem paid the sum of \$58.00, and last the sum of \$10.00.

At the beginning of the Conference year (the spring of 1852) the Huntersville Circuit was divided into the "Little Levels" and the Huntersville Circuit". By this time Little Levels was the leading Class

1. Stevards Book #2.
2. Stevards Book #2 p. 21.

the newly organized Little Levels Circuit was composed of the following Classes: Elk, Mt. Pleasant, Franklin, McMillian's, Buckman's, Little Levels, Callison's, Droup, McMillian's and Hill's. The Reverend F. F. McClure was the preacher in charge. He was allowed \$135.00. for table and fuel expense, \$25.00. travel expense, and \$248.00. for salary. The Presiding Elder's claim for the year was \$36.00. The total was divided among the several classes. Little Levels was to pay \$100.00., Callison's \$30.00., A. Hill's \$60.00., etc. By this time it was deemed necessary to replace the "Burnt Church" and the village of Academy (Hillshore) was chosen as the site. Mr. "Garder's Book Huntersville Circuit - Baltimore Conference of the United States of America" Book Second and July 13, 1846. November 13, 1852. PP. 87-88.

## CHAPTER VI.

## THE FIRST WESLEY CHAPEL AND THE CIVIL WAR

7

At the Second Quarterly Meeting on August 30, 1862 at the parsonage, G. W. Amiss was appointed to secure the deed for a Church lot at Academy and Israel J. Callison, George Edminston and William Kinnison were appointed a Building committee.<sup>1</sup> The lot secured adjoined the parsonage lot and was deeded to the Methodist Episcopal Church January 15, 1863 by Mr. Nathaniel Kinnison. It was committed to the care of the following trustees: Israel J. Callison, Richard Hill, James Edminston, George Amiss, Thomas Morrison, Ed. Whiting, J. H. Ruckman, S. Auldrige and G. W. Ruckman.

This Church, named "Wesley Chapel" was on the road going through Academy and stood on a sloping knoll east of the village. They built a rectangular frame building 30 X 60 feet, with a limestone foundation, two stories high which faced the town. The basement had two rooms for use of the Sunday School. Private schools were also taught in these rooms. Following the policy of John Wesley, in requiring the separation of the sexes in the Churches, two entrances in the back admitted separately the men and women. A balcony across the back of the auditorium was built for the colored people. The pulpit of black walnut sat on a dais being entered by steps on either side. The devout men filled the "men's corner" at each service. The altar rail was of black walnut, too. The lighting of the Church originally lighted by candles placed in holders hung on the wall finally gave way to oil lamps and a center chandelier. There were six large windows with shutters on the

<sup>1</sup>1. Steward's Book #2, p. 71.



WILLIS CHURCH

Built in  
1852

It was near parsonage house built in 1848 and that of the parsonage below.



Parsonage built in 1880's  
on site of parsonage  
house built in 1848 and  
used until the present  
parsonage was built in  
1948.



## BIRTHPLACE

of

PEARL BUCK

On U. S. Route  
#219  
Northeast of  
the village of  
Hillsboro.

under the direction of a German Scientist. The writer found one of the original shrapnel caps in the Church yard of the present Wesley Chapel. Finally finding their position flanked on both the right and the left, the Confederates were forced to fall back to Lewisburg. In this, the largest battle ever fought in what is now West Virginia, the home of Joseph Beard (now owned by Mr. Ralph Burns) came into use as a hospital. The Union Soldiers used Wesley Chapel as a barracks. Upon departure they carried with them the silver communion set of our Church. It being later found in a home in Falling Springs (Renick, West Virginia) was repurchased and put into the possession of our Church membership.

These many years the lay members of the Methodist Episcopal Church had not had much part in the Annual Conference. Yet, at the Baltimore Annual Conference in session at the Lutheran Church in Churchville, Augusta County, Virginia Thursday, March 19, 1863, a lay committee, consisting of W. Walton and Joseph Beard (the latter from our own Wesley Chapel), was appointed. Mr. Beard seems to have been quite prominent in the affairs of this Church and of this Conference. At the Conference session of March 10-14, 1864, being present, he was appointed to the Executive Committee of the Home Missionary Society. This appointment may have been due to the activities of his home societies, for in spite of the War in 1864, the Home Missionary Societies of the Levelton Charge reported \$167.00. paid to Missions, while many neighboring parishes were Missionary Charges receiving support from the Mission Board. Among them were: Lewisburg which received \$200.00., Frankfort \$200.00., Street Springs \$173.00. and Peterstown \$150.00.

The first session of the Pocahontas County Court held after the Civil War convened at Wesley Chapel in November, 1865.

Among the strict rules in force at that time was one forbidding ministers to become Masons; another, prohibiting members from committing

for prizes in shooting matches. \*1,2.

Mr. Joseph Beard was still hard at work at the Levelton Churches in 1807 as the Missionary Cause for Lewisburg Station paid \$83.00. to the Board of Domestic Missions, while Levelton Charge paid \$83.70. Lewisburg paid to Foreign Missions \$43.50., and Levelton \$45.50. Lewisburg paid the Bishop \$5.00., while Greenbank and Levelton paid \$20.00 each.\*3.

\*1. James E. Armstrong, "History of the Old Baltimore Conference" (Baltimore, 1807). p. 217.

2. William Price, "History of Pocahontas County, West Virginia" (Charleston, 1901). p. 187.

3. "Annual Minutes of the Baltimore Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South" held in Baltimore, Maryland 1808.

Property of  
Pocahontas County  
Historical Society

## CHAPTER VII.

## DISTRICT CONFERENCES AND A NEW PARSONAGE

By the spring of 1868 District Conferences were inaugurated in the Baltimore Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Wesley Chapel was for the first time in the "Levelton Charge" of the Lewisburg District. It had 126 members, one being a local preacher.

The fifth session of the Lewisburg District Conference of the Baltimore Conference of the M. E. Church, South was held in Academy, Pocahontas County, West Virginia, September 20-23, 1871. The two pastors, the Reverend Charles A. Joyce and Reverend J. H. Rembert Smith and one local preacher, the Reverend James B. Moore were present as were the official lay men, Mr. Joseph Beard and Joel Hill of Academy. Mr. Hill was appointed to the Committee on the Spiritual Interests of the Church, Rev. Joyce on the Sunday School Committee, Mr. Beard on the Finance Committee and Rev. Smith on the Committee on Education. \*1. The Committee on the Spiritual Interests of the Church of which Mr. Hill was a member says in part, "Our Church, originating in a desire for the promotion of personal piety, and with special and peculiar means grace most calculated to accomplish this, we have a right to expect that Methodists should be better than the members of other Churches. . . . Much depends upon the prudence and faithfulness of the ministry. . . . Methods of means of grace faithfully used, . . . (and) we shall again hear it said, "Methodism is Christianity in earnest." \*1.

From the Church and Parsonage Committee we learn that there were only three parsonages in the Lewisburg District - one at Academy, another at Conterville, with the District Parsonage for the Elder at

\*1. "Minutes of the Lewisburg District Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South held in Academy, West Virginia September 20-23, 1871." (Baltimore, 1871).

Levistburg, \*1. George G. Brooks, Sunday School Agent, for the Methodist Episcopal Church, South was also present.

Sometime early in the eighties, the need being felt for a new parsonage, plans were laid which materialized in a commodious two-story building. This parsonage was a well-built frame structure, L-shaped, of eight rooms, having four rooms in front and four extending back. A back porch extended the length of the dining room and kitchen. A portico on the front later gave way to a wide porch. There was a central hall from which stairs led upstairs. The upper rooms could also be reached from a kitchen stairway. The house had a good-sized basement under it. This parsonage was the home of the ministers until 1942.

Not until 1895 do our Quarterly Conference Records, again, take up the story. Then Rev. A. C. Hamill became the preacher in charge with Rev. W. G. Hammonds as Presiding Elder. The Trustees of Wesley Chapel in 1895 were: George Hill, K. C. B. Kinnison, John J. Beard, W. H. Callison, W. H. Overholt, R. W. Hill, E. H. Moore, Isaac McNeal and George Curry. Many branches had gone out from our Church: Sharon, Old Drop, Marvin Chapel, Buckeye, Swago, Lohelia, Emmanuel, Mt. Lebanon on Drop Mountain, and Trinity on Stamping Creek. The preacher's salary was \$600.00, a year.

There were two Sunday Schools on the Charge that were ever-green: Wesley Chapel and Marvin Chapel. Wesley Chapel had an assessment from the District Steward of \$405.00. Every week the Sunday School took up a Missionary offering. As a committee to dig a well and repair the parsonage at Academy, R. W. Hill, J. B. Grimes, G. E. Curry, Isaac McNeal and Jos. S. McNeal were appointed. The value of the parsonage was given as \$1,800.00. In the same year (1895) we had the first record of an

\*1. Minutes of the Levistburg District Conference.

Epworth League. There were thirty- three members of this youth organization on the Charge. An Inter-denominational Young People's Prayer Meeting at Academy that year accomplished much for the spiritual welfare of the community.

Mr. J. William Smith, as far as is known, was the only person to remember the Levelton Circuit in his will. In 1898 he left two hundred dollars, the interest on it to be paid to the Circuit preacher.<sup>11</sup> That same year brought thoughts of future progress at Wesley Chapel. The Reverend John Dills, who is still living at this writing, being then as pastor recorded in July, "Plans are on foot looking to the erection at an early date of a new Church at Academy." Rev. Van Horne came back to assist the pastor in a revival at Wesley Chapel.

<sup>11.</sup> "Quarterly Conference Minutes of the Levelton Circuit" (1895, 1898)

## CHAPTER VIII.

## A NEW WESLEY CHAPEL.

On May 20, 1899 a building committee appointed at the Quarterly Conference for the new Church in Academy consisted of: R. W. Hill, Ellis Preacher, the Presbyter, and Rev. John Mills. A deed had been secured a few years before for one acre of land from Mrs. Rolla Clark Yeager for the sum of two hundred dollars. The trustees receiving the property were the same as in the old Wesley Chapel listed previously. After careful study of the contract was let to Joseph Knapp of Richlands, Greenbrier County, in Home West Virginia. The contract stipulated that the church was to be completed by the first of March, 1900. The pastor reported July, 1899, "The new church enterprise at Wesley Chapel is taking shape and is on a better basis than ever before. I have constantly in mind the song of Solomon: 'Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build it.' I want to keep this thought uppermost; the building of this church is to be in a supreme sense a religious act."

We do not know the contract price, but \$2,500.00, had been subscribed by November 5, 1899 and \$850.00 had been paid. This new Wesley Chapel was to be a frame building with a shingle roof, a large auditorium (having an elevated floor) with a large annex that could be separated from the main auditorium by huge roller-type doors and have a combined seating capacity of three hundred, the annex to be used for the Sunday School assembly room. Back of the annex and under the same roof were to be placed two Sunday School class rooms. There were to be two porches, one at the front and one on the right side. The pulpit was to be in the left front corner with a door to a small hall. Across the same corner the altar rail was to extend with isles on either side. To the front of the hall just mentioned and under the bell tower, this room became the pastor's study. A door at the back of this hall leads to the choir in

adjacent to the pulpit with a seating capacity of twenty-five. The plan specified two outside double-door entrances, one to the auditorium from the front and one beside the annex. There were to be also single door entrances to the pastor's study, the adjoining hall and the Sunday School room. The walls of the Church were to be finished with plaster and the ceiling with panels of oak ceiling, varnished.

Mr. McNeill of Buckeye quarried the foundation stones. They were secured from the McCorkle Farm. Mr. C. V. Kinnison hauled the large stones to the building site. Frank Kinnison, his father, offered to furnish the sills, but Mr. Knapp secured them from some other source. The corner stone was carried and cut from the marble on Stamping Creek from the farm of Captain William L. McNeal. At the laying of the corner stone Mrs. Bills, the little daughter of the Rev. John H. Bills, placed within it a current copy of the *Pocahontas Times* and several other articles commemorating the event.

As construction went on, the Rev. John Bills said, "When finished this will be the best Church, except one, in the Lewisburg District." Being so well pleased with it after he became pastor at Corbin Park Methodist Church at Spokane, Washington, he sent back to West Virginia for the architect's plan and had another built just like it there.

Stained glass windows were used throughout the building. The large front window, which is nine feet high and nine feet wide, is a memorial to the Reverend J. D. Martin, who was born January 21, 1859 and died September 2, 1889 during the construction of the Church. He was the Presiding Elder at that time. There are two memorial windows in the Sunday School room. These were donated by R. A. Hill in memory of his father, Joel Hill, born February 23, 1807; died February 18, 1884 and Rebecca Hill, born December 17, 1808; died April 8, 1888. All the windows of Fredericks design were bought from Jacoby Spiess Manufacturing

company, St. Louis, Missouri at a cost of sixty-eight dollars.

The pulpit desk, the altar rail and the choir railing represent the work of Mr. Asbury Smith, the father of Miss Miss Smith. The desk in the pastor's study was made by Graham Laffey. The pews for the main auditorium were of an unusual design some of which are twenty-two feet long. The benches and one organ used in the Sunday School room today came from the "1858 Wesley Chapel." The other organ was bought new for the dedication of the present Chapel. The pictures on the walls, as you see them, were given by the late John Raine, a former steward in the Leesburg Methodist Church. The large bell in the tower is the gift of the same man. It is considered the finest toned bell in this part of West Virginia. (The bell, altar rail and the pulpit desk of the Old Wesley Chapel were given to the Pleasant Green Methodist Church and they are in use there.) Flag stones for the walks that were placed beside the Church and to the street were hauled in the winter of 1898-1900 on sleds from Bruffey's Creek. At the same time a flagstone walk with a curb was built along the road in front of the Church. This was replaced by a concrete walk constructed by the Works Progress Administration.

The following trustees took part in the dedicatory service October 21, 1900: George W. Callison, Asbury R. Smith, Sidney J. Payne, G. G. Glendinning, Joseph S. McKeel, George H. Curry, Isaac McKeel and R. W. Hill. The Rev. Forest J. Trettyman preached the sermon of dedication. The Rev. John Phillips, because of the four year limit then on the itinerant system of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South did not remain long enough to be host at this occasion. This honor was for the Rev. W. J. Whitsell, who came to our Church that spring.

One of the most successful revivals of Wesley Chapel took place in the fall of 1902, under the ministry of the Rev. Charles Lynch. Thirty-three people were converted, and twenty-seven became members of the

Church. It was in July of this year that the Woman's Home Missionary Society with eight charter members was organized. During the year the membership of the Society increased to twenty-five with Mrs. Charles Lynch as the first president. The next year the Rev. J. W. Campbell, a local preacher transferred to the Indian Mission Conference.

The greatest revival ever held in this Church was under the ministry of the Reverend S. R. Neel, and his assistant, the Reverend C. Lambert. This meeting resulted in one hundred thirty professions of faith in Christ. Virginia Payne Neel, daughter of the Rev. S. R. Neel was born during his stay here. At this time the salary of the pastor was \$1,000.00., that of his assistant \$500.00. per year.



Present  
WESLEY CHAPEL

Built in  
1900

During the  
ministry of  
Mr. & Mrs. John Dills

Below: The Interior  
of  
WESLEY CHAPEL



The Reverend John Dills  
who was instrumental in  
the building of Wesley  
Chapel.



Mrs. John Dills

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CHAPTER IX.  
A SEPARATE CHARGE, HILLSBORO

the Reverend W. J. Eye reported on February 18, 1916 that the matter of having Wesley Chapel and some other congregations set apart as distinct and separate charge was being agitated. (Rev. Eye is an invalid at his home at Bridgewater, Virginia and is the father of Miss Catherine Eye, who spent four years of her childhood in Hillsboro and later became a missionary to Africa. At present she is the Religious Educational Director of Ashbury Memorial Methodist Church, Harrisonburg, Virginia.) The next fall that division took place. Sharon and Wesley Chapel were designated the Hillsboro Charge with Mr. Eye as pastor with membership of 273. Wesley Chapel paid \$750.00. of the one thousand dollars set for salary of the charge.

The Centenary movement came in 1920 during the ministry of the Reverend George H. Echols with the Hillsboro Charge pledging \$4,977.50. which exceeded the quota assessed by two thousand dollars. In that year the Charge paid \$250.00. for an Armenia Aid Special, \$718.00. on the Centenary Fund and \$1,400.00. for pastor's salary. For 1922 the Rev. Walter Early reported the first every member canvas for the budget. By 1923 the pastor preached once a month at Kincaidson. A Tither's League was organized and George Milburn Curry of Wesley Chapel attended Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky. As pastor of this Charge the Reverend L. Lovance in 1930 reported one hundred reconsecrations.

In the Conference year of 1931-1932 a change in the Circuit took place. Sharon went back to the Levelton Charge and the following churches were added: Renick's Valley, Renick and Mount Zion giving the charge a total membership of 430. The salary of the preacher was twelve hundred dollars. Hillsboro's portion became \$693.00.

By 1934 this was again the Levelton Charge and Wesley Chapel was connected with Marvin Chapel, Seebert, Sharon, Emmanuel and Trinity. The Reverend J. H. Light, who had been pastor of the Levelton Charge, began preaching at Hillsboro.

In 1937 the Reverend L. S. Shires reported six junior choirs on the Circuit. He is remembered for his successful founding of Vacation Bible Schools on this work. He remained as pastor here for five years, this was the longest time any pastor had ever served this Charge or Wesley Chapel. The Reverend R. D. Marshall followed him to serve also five years. During the latter's pastorate one hundred copies of the "Upper Room" were being distributed to the Charge membership. With the placing of Seebert Church in the Levelton Charge, its parsonage became Levelton property. In 1940 the Seebert parsonage was sold because it seemed convenient for the pastor to live in centrally located Hillsboro. Improvements were made on the Hillsboro parsonage by the money received from this sale - chief among them being the installation of a water system.

## A NEW PARSONAGE

In 1947 the Reverend A. J. Schrader, a young man of energy just out of seminary, yet having two years of preaching experience, was sent to Hillsboro. It was through his untiring efforts and courage that a new parsonage became a reality beside Wesley Chapel on the lot which had with admirable foresight been provided for that purpose more than a half century before. At the second Quarterly Conference on February 15, 1948 the following petition was presented:

"Petition: We, the undersigned, duly elected Elders and Trustees of the Levelton Charge, met in a called meeting on January 27, 1948, at the Methodist Parsonage, in Hillsboro, West Virginia to consider the selling of the Methodist Parsonage.

It was the unanimous opinion and vote of each of us that the Methodist Parsonage should be sold and a new parsonage erected on the lots adjacent to the Wesley Chapel Methodist Church in Hillsboro, West Virginia, and we recommend that the Second Quarterly Conference of February 15, 1948, at Seabert, West Virginia take the appropriate steps to complete the sale.

Signed:	7. Ivy B. Clendenin	12. E. S. Newman
1. Mrs. Mary Hoggsett	8. S. D. Kirk	13. L. P. Anderson
2. Boyd Dilley	9. W. A. Arbogast	14. A. P. Walker
3. E. C. Sheets	10. G. O. Auldrige	15. Dorsey May
4. Mrs. Dorsey May	11. G. H. LaRue	16. A. J. Schrader
5. Mrs. C. W. Auldrige		
6. Mrs. Winona B. Elmore		

The Quarterly Conference of February 15, 1948 received the petition and the following were appointed as a committee for disposing of the old parsonage in Hillsboro and erecting a new parsonage as planned: E. S. Newman, Dorsey May, Mrs. H. T. Elmore, S. D. Kirk, A. P. Walker, L. P. Anderson and Rev. A. J. Schrader. This committee was to bring its findings to a special Quarterly Conference called by the District Superintendent." August 5, 1948 the Quarterly Conference by unanimous vote instructed the building committee to proceed with the building of the new parsonage.

The subscriptions then reported by S. D. Kirk and E. S. Newman

amounted to five thousand dollars. One thousand was from Marvin Chapel, S. S. Kirk bought the old parsonage for six thousand dollars. The committee was authorized to secure a building contract including plumbing, heating, wiring and lighting fixtures - a "turnkey job" - for fourteen thousand dollars. It had been agreed that upon the sale of the old parsonage the trustees of Wesley Chapel would deed the parcel of ground on which the parsonage was to be built to the trustees of the parsonage and that each Church would have an equity in the new parsonage. The building campaign extended from October 1947- August 5, 1948. The following committees were to be appointed: advisory, finance, correspondence, inspection and subscription. (See supplement for names.) Mr. A. G. Killingsworth of Marlinton, West Virginia was awarded the building contract for \$14,500.00.

The housebeing completed an auction sale was held to dispose of the old parsonage furniture. The proceeds bought new furniture for the new parsonage. The Reverend and Mrs. A. J. Schrader were the first to live in the new brick parsonage. After only a few months the Conference year ended and Mr. Schrader went back to Duke University to complete the work on his Bachelor of Divinity degree. His ministry was followed by that of Rev. T. E. Painter. The indebtedness remaining on the parsonage when Mr. Painter arrived was \$2,600.00. Through his diligence and the generosity of the members the liquidation of the debt took place during his two year pastorate.

Then came the thought of the formal dedication. On April 15, 1951, three members from each Church were appointed as a committee to plan for it. An invitation was extended to the Area's Bishop, the Reverend Lloyd C. Vick, of Pittsburg, to dedicate the new dwelling for the use of the Methodist ministry. He graciously consented to come August 26, 1951. Again the Conference acted and Mr. Painter being moved to Killarney,

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from various sources, including friends and the community, the Reverend Frank A. Johnson became the pastor for the dedicatory service.

The day of dedication dawned bright and clear. For days preparation had been made for the guests. Open house was observed at the parsonage throughout the day. The Reverend A. J. Schrader preached the morning service of the occasion at Wesley Chapel being assisted in the service by Rev. T. E. Painter with Rev. Frank Johnson presiding. At noon a great picnic dinner provided food for all on the church lawn. Bishop Hicks and the District Superintendent, the Reverend Clyde Hensley, arrived at late noon. The Bishop preached at two o'clock in the afternoon with the following ministers taking part in the service: A. J. Schrader, T. E. Painter, Clyde Hensley and Frank A. Johnson. The soloist of the occasion to dispense with a former member of Wesley Chapel, now a member of the choir of St. Ralph Lauren's Church in New York City, Mr. Robert Aldridge, son of Mrs. is first to be followed by Mr. Aldridge of Millpoint, West Virginia, sang "Bless This House" Confession of the First Psalm. Other former ministers present were: Samuel Register Neel, and the pastor who assisted him here the first year, Curtis Painter. The Reverend S. R. Neel preached at the evening service. Many former residents and members were here. Their names may be found in the guest book at the parsonage.

This same year (1951) a Union Religious Survey made of the Hillsboro community showed a population of 660 constituting 197 families. 168 persons belonged to the Methodist Church, 117 to the Presbyterian Church, eighteen to the Disciples of Christ and fourteen to other Churches.

The Wesley Chapel Sunday School under the direction and capable leadership of Graham LaRue has increased its average attendance from seventy-five to eighty-nine. The year 1954-1955 was one of the best years in the Church School.

A "Loyalty" dinner plan for subscriptions to the budget was inaugurated in 1953 at Wesley Chapel. The Reverend Curtis C. Lambert was a guest speaker for the dinner held July 15, 1953 at the Hillsboro High School. The fifty members present subscribed forty-three per cent of the budget. The next year the Reverend Stacey Grosscup spoke for our "Loyalty Dinner". One hundred sixteen gathered for the feast and many made their pledges to the budget. It was one of the greatest occasions we have had in our Church. The system has proven its worth in the Church finances. These two years no personal soliciting has been necessary and more has been paid each year. Most important is the Plans' Good Fellowship.

This (1954-1955) is the second year that Sharon's budget has been with Wesley Chapel's and the members of Sharon are an integral part of our Church here. However, we do have a separate roll for Sharon and hold services there once each year. At the beginning of the 1955-1956 Conference year the over all picture of Wesley Chapel is something like this: Church membership 201, Sunday School membership 144, Woman's Society of Christian Service membership 50, and Youth Fellowship 25. Wesley Chapel's Woman's Society of Christian Service and its Youth Fellowship can take their places with those of the other Churches in the District; its Sunday School is advancing; after a lapse of a few years Prayer Services have resumed; its house of worship and its pastor's home are certainly adequate, and its financial reports are good. Indeed, it can be said that the Church does its daily tasks well as it carries on the great denominational program.

Willis Summers followed Frank A. Johnson as pastor coming here from Bartley, West Virginia in June 1955. During his first year he was ill for some time but in spite of this handicap the Sunday School attendance reached ninety-eight and a record Vacation School of fifty, too. He

received a salary of \$2200.00, from Wesley Chapel, alone, which was the most ever paid any preacher by this Church. In his second year the Deaf Fellowship reached thirty-five, the adult members of the Sunday School numbered fifty-five, the enrollment of the Church School rose to 135 with fifteen officers and teachers. These last records have not been broken since. In his third year there were fifty-seven in Vacation School and fifty-three in the Woman's Society of Christian Service. These records have not been exceeded.

The Reverend L. E. Nilam came in June 1959. His ministry saw the membership go again to two hundred. He baptized fifteen and received nineteen into Church membership at Wesley Chapel. Although he received \$150.00, less than his predecessor at Wesley Chapel the amount paid on World Service by that Church amounted to \$600.00, and they paid a budget of \$5,029.00 as a record of payments on regular expenses and claims without any building project. After two years Rev. Paul Riegel followed him as pastor. Wesley Chapel has only paid the last two years four hundred dollars on World Service and the smallest budget paid the last eight years was in 1961 of \$3,784.00.

The Reverend Owen H. Lee came last year. In fatherhood he stands with twelve children. They will truly rise up and "call him blessed". Eight reside with their parents and fill the parsonage to its capacity. Average attendance is increasing in the Sunday School but the enrollment is down to ninety-eight. The budget paid is again climbing. The people and their pastor seem very happy in their relationship. The report is that the children and young people of the parsonage are real examples in their behaviour. May God bless them in their work with the dependable people of the Little Levels.

This is something of the history that we have inherited. If we

Methodist, can keep the insight of our founder, John Wesley, when he said, "This commandment we have from Christ, that he who loves God, loves his brother also ... he feels in his soul a burning restless desire of spending and being spent for Him", then, and then only, we shall create as great a history as we have inherited.



Levellton Circuit  
Parsonage

Built in 1948

Next to  
Wesley Chapel

Rev. & Mrs. Owen Lee  
in Parsonage living room  
the parents  
of  
twelve children

Eight now reside with  
their parents in the above  
parsonage.



The author, Frank A. Johnson  
Now pastor of

The South Fork Charge  
at Brandywine, W. Va.

## REGULAR METHODIST ITINERANTS OF LITTLE LEVELS

1. "Mount Taber" Meeting House or Church, Hillsboro, West Va., commonly known as the "White Pole Meeting House".

2. "Burnt Church" or "Mill Run Methodist Church".

3. "British Church" (Presbyterian) This was used by the Methodists from the burning of the Mill Run Church until the building of Wesley Chapel in 1853.

4. "Wesley Chapel" built in 1853 in Academy, West Virginia.

5. "Wesley Chapel" built in 1900 in Academy now Hillsboro.

(Numbers in parenthesis indicates years of service here.)

At first our community was in the Greenbrier Circuit organized in 1787 with a total membership on the Circuit of one hundred from the Bradford Circuit adjoining the Holston Circuit.

John Smith (1787) was our preacher at the age of twenty-seven years. As a native of Maryland he became a Methodist in 1780. He entered itinerancy in 1784 and traveled the New Hope and Red Stone Circuits before coming here. Faithfully he labored, notwithstanding the infirmity of a feeble constitution, for ten or twelve years. He died in 1801 at the age of fifty-four in Chestertown, Maryland, and rests at Union's Chapel. His death was remarkably triumphant. "Come Lord Jesus", he exclaimed. "Come quickly and take my snatched soul away. I am not afraid to die; I long to be dissolved and see my Savior without a covering veil between. Death has lost its sting." 20:1A, 27, 31.

Richard Swift (1789). He could have been one of the first to visit here for he was in Western Territory in 1785. He became a Christian at the age of eight years. For only six years he itinerated because he wound he received in the Revolutionary War greatly weakened him. He was a pointed, zealous preacher and strict disciplinarian; a happy August 1792 at Shoulderbone, Georgia and was blessed with frequent contemplations in his last hours. 20:1A, 2:.

Benjamin Carter (1789). He came here with Swift.

James Piggim (1789) was likely a member of the Christmas Conference of 1784 for he had been Admitted on Trial and probably came from Sumter County, Maryland. 2:84, 116.

Jesse Richardson (1789) came here with Piggim having been Received on Trial in 1788. He Located in 1805 and died in 1837. 20:1A.

Lesley Mathews (1790). As a Roman Catholic he was converted under the preaching of Joseph Chevront, a Frenchman, as a soldier in the

saints of Yorktown. These men were mighty in the Scriptures. They preached, loved and lived holy. Matthews began to travel in 1788 and preached twenty-seven years. After doing chivalric service he won a glorious victory. He died in 1813 saying, "Glory! Praise Him by Jesus' name" 30:

7. Salathiel Weeks(1781) being a native of Prince George County, Virginia he was Admitted on Trial in 1788. In May 1792 he attended Conference at Rehoboth. Laboring faithfully for several years he died in 1800, his life having wasted away with consumption at his own home, \*30th.

8. George Martin(1791) here with Weeks.

9. John Kobler (1792). Born in Culpepper, Virginia in 1768 he became an itinerant in 1788 and an Elder later in Kentucky, Tennessee and on to Ohio in 1799. A man of saint-like spirit, dignified and ministerial bearing, untiring labors in preaching, praying and visiting the sick. Tall, slender with an energy of soul that far surpassed that of the body. His hair black and long, extending over the cape of his coat, his dress neat, with straight breasted coat. He had a most impressive countenance. It lacked no ordinary intellectual development, united with sweetness of disposition, unconquerable firmness and uncommon devotion. Many souls were brought to God through his instrumentality." He founded the firm work in Cincinnati, Ohio. He was Received into Full Connection at Rehoboth. He died in 1843 at the age of seventy-four. His last words were: "Come Lord Jesus Come, Lord Jesus, in power Come quickly!" 30:

10. Francis Scuff (1793). He was born in Culpepper County, Tennessee. From a fiddler in Tennessee he became a Christian and then a Preacher. He died in Kentucky April 1796 in the work of the Lord. A young man of genius, much beloved and greatly lamented died in Danville before he was twenty-five years old having volunteered for the hazardous mission in Kentucky. 30;

11. Anthony Gales (1794) Received 1793; located 1799.

12. James Jones (1795) Received 1794.

13. William Spangler (1796).

14. Richard Bird (1797). Received 1792; Located 1797 likely at the close of his pastorate here. (Membership of the Greenbrier Circuit is 250.)

15. James Ward (1798-1800) Born in 1771 in Somerset County, Maryland, converted in his seventeenth year; Admitted on Trial in 1792 and died at the age of fifty-four years in Floyd'sburg, Kentucky 1825. He traveled for fifteen years as Preacher in Charge, also, as Presiding Elder, chiefly in the Valley and along the mountains of Virginia. He was ranked among the ablest and most successful men of his times. Multitudes thronged to hear him, and many were saved under his ministry. In the spring of 1807 he was transferred to the Western Conference. He located in 1810 and was readmitted into the Kentucky Conference in 1823, and then Superannuated in 1840. In 1846 he united with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South and at his request, his name was recorded in his

first conference in 1803 and placed on the superannuated list. This last year had no dangers in them. His son went down without a cloud. It was one that secured the dead from John Kitchell for mount Tabor Methodist Church and lot in 1792. He came back as Presiding Elder in 1803. 2117W.

BALTIMORE CONFERENCE - GREENBRIER AND GOTTMOURT CIRCUIT

6. Christopher S. Woering (1800). Born in Barry County, Virginia. He was received on Trial in 1789 and preached until 1825 except for one year that he was ill. His last words regarding the end were: "I am getting near to my long home. O, for subjection- submission- resignation - resignation! I feel rather restless, but that restlessness is now mercifully gone." That was in 1825 when he gently went to sleep at the age of fifty-eight years. \*201

7. Daniel Rossillo. Received on Trial 1800; Located 1808.

8. Isaac Sternard (1800).

RICHMOND DISTRICT - GREENBRIER CIRCUIT 1801-1802

9. Joseph Pimell (1801). Received on Trial 1795; Located 1810.

10. Joseph Phillips (1802). Received on Trial 1798; Located 1813.

BALTIMORE CONFERENCE - GREENBRIER DISTRICT

11. James Smith (1802). Born in 1782 or 1783 and joined the Baltimore Conference in 1802. He began to preach at sixteen years and was not over twenty years in 1802. During his ministry he attended three General Conferences as a delegate. "A man of high intellect, of kind and generous feelings, of excessive humor in the familiar circles of his ministerial brethren." "One of the most transparent and ingenious of wit and of manly and stirring eloquence." His language was nervous and chaste. "Taking into account the matter and style of his sermons together with the manner of delivery, I have," says his friend, Bishop Borwick, "known few more attractive preachers." Six feet high, robust, erect with fair complexion, silky auburn hair, round and benevolent face with one eye a soft and beautiful blue and the other dark hazel, looking black at times. Spiti by word and deed and look was winning and attractive. He had remarkable fervor and pathos in prayer. Being in active work for twenty-four years and died in his prime, in peace in Baltimore 1826. \*30.

22. Frederick Stier (1804).

23. Edmund Henley (1804). Received on Trial 1803 and died 1808, a native of North Carolina. "Expecting death, he hastened from his Circuit to his father's house, erected a stand at the graveyard, preached from it his own funeral sermon to his old neighbors and friends, and soon after was buried there. ... He was circumspect in his walk. He would shout and pray, exhort and praise God to the last." 204A, 1808.

24. Lesley Matthews (1805). Previously here in 1790.

25. Adam Burke (1806)

26. Thomas Budd (1806) Born in 1783; converted in 1800 and joined the Methodist Episcopal Church. Received on Trial in 1803; he died in 1810 at the age of twenty-eight years in Philadelphia. As a preacher he was very useful and acceptable, good, pious with open and free manners. He was harassed on his death bed with doubts, "but the cloud suddenly burst, and his heart was filled with joy." 20:

27. Robert Bolton (1806). Received on Trial 1806; Located 1812.

28. Paul Henkle (or Hinkle) (1807). Received on Trial 1806; Located 1812. After his work here he likely went as a missionary to the Indians.

29. Eli Turner (1808). Received on Trial 1804 and was still traveling in 1826.

30. Joseph Carson (1809). Born in Winchester, Virginia in 1785. Admitted into the Baltimore Conference at Winchester, Virginia in March, 1809. His first appointment was the state of Pennsylvania. In 1809 his Circuit embraced the whole County of Greenbrier with parts of Bath and Giles in the Commonwealth of Virginia. There were twenty-two appointments for four weeks, some fifty miles apart. He says, "I had been told it was a rude country, and a very hard circuit." This he found true, it being "not very pleasant to use bear's meat for both bread and meat." His recompence was an addition of one hundred and fifty souls to the Church. 2:98, 140, 149, 152, 153.

31. James Watts (1809). Born in Greenbrier County, Virginia, in 1782; converted at the age of fourteen and admitted into the Conference in 1804. The first year he rode Prince George and Stafford Circuits. In 1806 being appointed to the Ohio Circuit he traveled thither one hundred miles with Bishop Whitcoat of whom he said, "I found him an excellent man, and strove to profit by his example." At one of his camp meetings he met Bishop Francis Asbury. The privations and labors of Watts rank him among the pioneer heroes of Methodism. On one occasion he had to move at the eve of winter and had his house to build. At the first Quarterly Meeting there he received Twenty-five cents, and in the second between eleven and twelve dollars. After traversing the whole extent of territory from Lake Erie on the north to Chesapeake Bay on the south for forty-eight years with constancy and unwavering fidelity, he was granted a Superannuated relation. His last sermon was on Easter Sunday from Psalm 138:7 "Though I walk through the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me." His illness continued but six days. As death approached he called his family together and gave them his counsel. His last words were, "God is a refuge in time of trouble," and raising his hands in triumph, he added: "He is my strength. All is well."

32. Beverly Waugh (1810). Born in Fairfax County, Virginia in 1789; joined the Baltimore Conference in 1809; appointed to Washington in 1811 and there his solid abilities and high character secured him the most important positions of his Conference. He was repeatedly appointed to Washington, Baltimore, Frederick, etc. to 1828 when the General Conference elected him book agent at New York where he served eight years.

He had become one of the prominent men of his denomination, not so much for brilliant or popular qualities, as by his well-balanced faculty, his concurrence and effective preaching. In 1836 the Cincinnati General Conference elected him Bishop. The average number of ministerial appointments made by him per annum was 550. They were made from Maine to Texas, and from Michigan to Georgia. He died at his work by disease of the heart at Baltimore in 1858. 2:4804 31:

35. Nathaniel M. Willis (1811). He was the first Methodist preacher to enter Wyoming Valley being a real hero in his early ministry. Born in New Castle County, Delaware on February 23, 1786; converted at seventeen and in 1797 joined the Baltimore Conference. One time he had for appointment "Ohio". Being Superannuated in 1824 he became again active from 1823 to 1829 when he was compelled to retire but he preached regularly up until the time of his death whenever possible. He preached on the last Sabbath of his life on Judges 5:31. "He was a holy man of God he was, indeed, one of the last of that highly interesting class of men, the primitive school of Methodist ministers." For fifty-eight years he served in the ministry. 31:

36. Benedict Reynolds (1812). Received on Trial 1807; Located 1814.

37. James Charles (1813). Received on Trial 1808; Located 1815.

38. Jacob Snyder (1814).

39. John Bull (1815). Received on Trial 1812; Located 1817. It may have been his son, an ex-Chaplain of the Union Army who said in 1863, "Father hated abolition as he hated hell, and considered it the root heresy out of hell." IL Sup. 11:April 10, 1863.

40. James Watts (1816-1817). Previously here in 1809.

41. Robert Boyd (1818). Received on Trial 1815 and still traveling in 1828.

42. Jacob L. Brownell (1819). Born in Talbot County, Maryland 1782; converted in early life; Admitted on Trial in 1847; Superannuated in 1826; made Effective in 1830 and soon was Superannuated, in which relation he continued forty years. He died in Mercer County, Indiana in 1871. As an effective preacher he did good service until his throat became affected, then moved to Indiana, where as he was able, he preached in cabins, log school houses, and in the woods. His labors were greatly blessed. He became the founder of a number of Societies in the brands of Beaverly Circuit in the Indiana Conference. His unction finally brought him to his death bed. At times he was rational and once he said to a son-in-law that he was glad there was a country that knew no pain and that he was not far from it. 2:338.

43. John Miller (1819). He was a well known man and greatly esteemed during the extended term of his ministry, a native of Huntington County, Pennsylvania, converted at the age of twenty-two under the preaching of Samuel Davis. He spent thirty-three years after 1819 in the effective work, sixteen on circuits (of which Greenbrier was the first), nine in stations, and eight on Districts. He died in Lexington,

Maryland in 1878 at the ripe age of ninety-four. He was a self-made man, endowed with solid and practical qualities, a wise counselor, a judicious administrator, and a good pastor. "Tell all the members of the Baltimore Conference, I am dying in the faith, happy in the Lord and want them to meet me in heaven," became the last message to his brethren, 2, 263, 288, 304.

42. Barney Montgomery (1820). Received on Trial 1807; Located 1825.

43. Amos Smith (1820). Being born in Frederick County, Virginia April 30, 1795, he died June 30, 1866. Converted at a camp meeting near Winchester, Virginia he served as a soldier in the War of 1812 and took part in the defense of Baltimore during the bombardment of Fort McHenry. Admitted on Trial 1820 he was sent to Greenbrier Circuit (Then embracing a large extent of territory). He, also, traveled on large Circuits in Pennsylvania. He served as Presiding Elder of the Chambersburg District two years and filled Fayette Station in Baltimore and successive Circuits with remarkable revivals in Maryland. During the closing years of his life he lived in Pennsylvania. Superannuated in 1863, he ceased not to labor preaching often two or three times from Sabbath to Sabbath. A violent attack of rheumatism disabled him for a year. On the evening before his departure he said, "I think I shall go home tonight." On the morning of January 20, 1866, while sitting in his chair, he fell asleep in Christ. 2:400.

#### KENTUCKY CONFERENCE - GREENBRIER CIRCUIT

44. Samuel Montgomery (1821). Here the year before the change of Conference.

45. Ames Smith (1821). Pastor in 1820.

46. Edward Stevenson (1822). Received on Trial 1819 and traveling in the ministry yet in 1820.

47. Harvey Sawyer (1822). As a native of Allegheny County, Virginia he was received into the Kentucky Conference and transferred to the Baltimore Conference. He died in Baltimore September 11, 1827. "He was a young man of deep piety, a useful preacher and highly beloved and respected by those who knew him."

48. James Ayers (1823). Received on Trial in 1822.

49. Jonathan G. Tucker (1823).

50. Obadiah Barber (1824). The son of Noah and Judith Barber, born in 1790 was religiously trained and became a Christian in 1802. Licensed to preach in 1821 he became a member of the Conference the same year. He traveled and labored with great usefulness and died in 1827 or 1828.

51. James Ross (1824).

52. Samuel Ellis (1825). A native of Yorkshire, England, converted a Wesleyan, licensed as a local preacher he emigrated to this country in 1819 and was admitted to Conference in 1821. Solid and useful were

his qualifications as a preacher; industry and punctuality marked his piety; his piety was deep and consistent. Calm and submissive during his last illness he bequeathed a legacy to the missionary cause and died in holy triumph September 24, 1846 on Saint Mary's Circuit in his sixty-fourth year. 2:37D.

33. William Reddell (1825). Born in Franklin County, Pennsylvania converted at twenty-one; Admitted on Trial 1822; traveled four years and died in the full triumph of the faith in 1827. His short life was a successful one, furnishing a bright example of piety and faith. 2:41D.

#### BALTIMORE CONFERENCE - ROCKINGHAM DISTRICT - GREENSBORO CIRCUIT

34. John Howell (1826). Born in 1791 at Fairfax, Virginia; admitted in 1823; a man of solid sense and deep piety, amiable, prudent and sincere; not showy as a preacher, but sound in doctrine, plain in manner and irreproachable in conduct." In all his Circuit's seals were given to his ministry. "When time of his departure came, the messenger found him fit for thirteen years of unremitting labor, diligently engaged reaping a field ripe to harvest." 2:40L.

35. Josephine Root (1826). Admitted in 1826; he traveled seven years in the Baltimore Conference, filling some important charges; located in 1837 and removed to the state of Georgia. 2:1

36. John Morell (1827). Here before in 1826.

37. John Bernard (1827).

38. Henry S. Kepler (1828). Could be the same as Samuel Kepler.

39. Herziah Best (1829). Here in 1828.

40. David Kennison (1831). We know that he was not the Little Lewis "Lewis Kennison".

41. Joseph Spiller (1831).

42. James Wait (1832). Likely the same man that was here in 1829.

43. James N. Green (1832).

#### HUNTERSVILLE CHARGE

44. George G. Brooks (1833). Born in Fauquier County, Virginia 1806; died in Berryville, Virginia 1878; closing his fiftieth year of active work. Admitted on Trial in the Baltimore Conference 1829; he was remarkable for constancy and earnestness in his private devotions and for unwavering faith in the divine promises. His labors were blessed with great success in the conversion of souls. In social life he was genial, courteous, kind and obliging; as a pastor faithful and vigilant and uniformly beloved. He served as Chaplain in the Confederate Army during the war and commanded the respect of all who knew him. Approaching the close of his life and the second year of his service on

Berryville Circuit (Church, South) where scores of souls were converted during a protracted meeting of several weeks, when about to retire for the night he said to his wife, "If I had some items of temporal business attended to, I could be ready to die now." Struck with apoplexy he never spoke again. On the Sunday morning following he was "absent from the body and present with the Lord." \*2:337.

65. S. D. Hopkins (1833).

66. J. Wesley Cullum (1834). "Born in East Baltimore 1808; died in Baltimore 1886; converted at eight years of age; admitted on Trial, 1832, and traveled twenty-five years. His pulpit ministrations were peculiarly blessed, particularly to the poor and outcast ones to whom he sought to make himself the instrument of salvation. All revered his genuine godly simplicity and bore testimony to his unswerving fidelity." \*2:337.

67. James M. Clarke (1834). "Born in Baltimore County, 1808; died in Duncansville, Pennsylvania, 1880. Converted at eighteen, educated at Dickinson College, he studied and practiced medicine, until he entered the itinerant ranks in 1831. He was a Christian gentleman in the best sense of the word; a true man, a devoted, laborious and successful Methodist preacher. Hundreds were led to the cross under his ministry. He died in the full assurance of faith and in glorious triumph." \*2:338.

68. Stephen Smith (1835). A native of Hampshire County, Virginia, converted at the age of thirteen, was admitted on Trial in 1830, at the age of twenty-eight. He labored on large and hard circuits with zeal and success for fourteen years at the end of which in 1844, his health failed and his voice in consequence of preaching in a new, damp Church, and he was retired. He became effective in 1867 and for five years served the charges to which he was assigned. While riding to an appointment on Morgan Circuit he fell from his horse and in a few days exchanged his labors on earth for a home in heaven. "He died of chills and fever." "I feel that God is with me!" was his last exclamation. A self-made man mentally, endowed with high spiritual gifts, he added many souls to the Church and was greatly esteemed on the Charges where he served. His grand daughter, Miss Roberta Dice Smith of Hillsboro, is a member of Wesley Chapel Church. \*2:463. His accident is also mentioned in the Autobiography of Bishop William Taylor.

69. J. Planter (1835).

70. C. Hartman (1836).

71. Jacob M'Enally (1837). "Was a Pennsylvanian born in Lancaster County 1794; converted in 1829; he served the Church as an active and energetic layman for ten years and ten years, from 1829 in the faithful and successful work of the ministry. His health failing, he retired in 1839 and lived twenty years at Nancey, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. He was humble, cheerful and laborious to the extent of his ability, a man of prayer and faith. He died happily March 1859." \*2:416.

72. Joseph C. McKeeshen (1839). "Born near Abbottstown, Pennsylvania 1810; converted in his twentieth year and Admitted on Trial in 1836. For twenty-nine years in active work he was placed on the retired list. As a preacher he was thoroughly Scriptural, sound in doctrine,

... tender and often tearful in delivery. As man he was unselfish and considerate, and gentle in spirit. Said his son, "I never heard father say an improper word or hear him to do a wrong act." He preached in his last sermon from the text: "Because I live, Ye shall live also." His death came suddenly. 2:418.

John is Osborne (1800-1840). Located at next General Conference after 1840 and removed to Chicago.

Thomas J. Everle (1841).

Levi G. Waters (1842-1843).

General Register (1844-1845). Born in Queen Anne's County, Maryland 1802, died 1881 in Prince George's County, Maryland; converted at a camp meeting (1837) near Baltimore and Admitted in 1840. After travelling on Circuit, most of which involved severe toil, he was stationed as Presiding Elder of the Rockville District and in 1850 in the famous Conference at Stamford, 1861, and later at Alexandria, Virginia, South, and his appointment to the Baltimore District. In the summer of 1869 the Maryland Agricultural College elected him its president; the office he filled with honor to himself and marked advantage to the institution. In 1873 he resigned; he served temporarily at Hagerstown, West Virginia; was successively appointed to the Winchester, Washington and East Baltimore Districts in which latter work he closed his ministry. His honest convictions impelled him to separate himself from his church, South, and his appointment to the Baltimore District in 1867 and for the remainder of his life. He was recognized as a man of great native strength and character, which he cultivated by habits of thought and reading. His honest convictions impelled him to separate himself from the church, South, and in a few years he died of consumption. His heart went out in generous sympathy to all Christians, with whom he had long been united in Christian fellowship, yet the assurance produced no rupture of brotherly love.

In the pulpit he was pre-eminent, earnest, eloquent and at times overpowering. Such was his sense of dignity of the sacred office that he never compromised it by irreverence of manner or speech. His presence was imposing. The massive frame, the fine arch of the forehead, the deep-set eyes, the overhanging brow bespoke no ordinary man. Four times he was elected to the General Conference, prominent in the councils of the Church and in the administration of her affairs. In manners he combined graceful dignity with gentleness and sweetness. With all the grandeur of his character he had the simplicity of a child. His estimate of himself was far below that held of him by others. His last illness being comparatively short involved great suffering but he passed through the trial with resignation and the brightest utterances of joyful hope and glorious visions of heavenly scenes. He was the grandfather of S. R. Fish, pastor here in 1911-1914 \*21440,411.

77. George O. Little (1845).

78. Fish (1846).

79. James N. Davis (1846-1847). A local preacher; born near Blacksburg, Virginia 1826; died in Berkeley Springs, West Virginia October 6, 1898. Reared in a Christian (Campbellite) Church, he first attended Methodist meeting in his seventeenth year and was wonderfully converted.

His brother was a bishop in the United Brethren Church. Acting on the advice of this brother he entered the Circleville Academy in Ohio and became an diligent student, especially of the classics. He had, after, entering upon the itinerancy in 1848 some of the hardest work in the Conference but whatever he found to do he did with all his might. His fidelity to every obligation was recognized by all who knew the man. Being a devout Christian more faithfully studied the Word than he and read all the best authors. He was a fine sermonizer. He had preached an admirable sermon on the Sabbath morning on which he was taken sick. He lingered only two days and went to glory. 2:360.

At a Quarterly Conference held on the Huntersville Circuit in 1846, after making application for license to preach and being examined on the Doctrines and Articles of the Methodist Episcopal Church, his license was not granted, (just as an error in the minutes, but in 1847 he is applying the Circuit as preacher in charge until Conference. 20:6.

80. James L. Clark (1847-1849). Here in 1834.

81. J. W. Start (1849-1850).

82. Enoch G. Jamison (1850). Born in Stafford County, Virginia; died near Newbern, Giles County, Virginia, December 10, 1880; Admitted on Trial 1841 and served with faithfulness in arduous missions and mountain circuits, often with success. He located in 1871; readmitted in 1878 and was given a superannuated relation till his death. Some what eccentric, he was at the same time zealous, laborious and pious. He died in peace. 2:401.

83. Thomas F. McClure (1852-1858). Born near Alexandria, Pennsylvania, April 3, 1817; died suddenly in the parsonage at Jolfsburg, Pennsylvania, December 22, 1879; converted in early life and admitted on Trial in 1841. He was a faithful and consistent Christian minister of more than ordinary abilities, a man of affairs, building Churches, (helped with Little Levels, Wesley Chapel) and paying Church debts and at the same time very effective in the pulpit, sound in doctrine, fearless in his statements of truth, often illustrating them with quaint and striking original remarks, incidents and anecdotes. 2:416.

84. Paster not known (1858-1864).

LENiSBURG DISTRICT - BALTIMORE CONFERENCE - LITTLE LEVELS CHARGE

85. Lorenzo D. Nixon (1854-1855). Born in Loudoun County, Virginia July 28, 1811; converted at seventeen; a local preacher eight years; twenty years, from 1834, in the traveling ministry; a model of meekness and simplicity, systematic in his work and a faithful and laborious servant of Jesus Christ, full of faith and of the Holy Ghost. 2:432, 433.

86. Paster not known (1855-1856).

87. Paster not known (1856-1857).

88. Paster not known (1857-1858).

89. J. S. Gardner (1858). Admitted on Trial March 1853; living in 1907. 2:300.

J. F. Richardson (1858-1860). Born in Montgomery County, Maryland September 20, 1839; died at Arlington, Maryland May 31, 1870; confined in his seventeenth year and admitted to Conference 1852. A man of great purity and zeal, undiminished by feeble health, and often by extreme sufferings, he was induced to rest one year, but his love for the Master and the souls of men forced him back to his loved employ. Nevertheless, his work was done. He fell at his post a victim of pneumonia. At his death it may with truth be said that he loved God and his fellowmen. In his Master he lived for others. Far from seeking place, preferment, and the applause of men, his purpose was purely "to do the work of an evangelist and make full proof of his ministry." He died with unshaking confidence in God and conscious victory through the Blood of Christ. He adhered with his brethren in 1860 to the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. 21:372.

Pastor not known (1860-1861).

Pastor the same as in 1860. (1862).

James F. Liggett (1862). Born in Greenbrier County, Virginia April 18, 1831; died at Churchville, Virginia in April, 1875; confined at seventeen years of age and entered the Conference in 1855. An itinerant preacher (in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.), a faithful pastor, a successful revivalist, he was ready always to go where the winning power thought he could work best. He died at his post in peace and triumph. 21:409.

J. A. F. Neel (1864-1865). Actually from March 14, 1864- March 9, 1865. S. W. Neel, a son, later was pastor at Little Levels.

P. S. E. Sixes (1865-1868). Born in Saint Thomas, Pennsylvania in 1832; died in New Castle, Virginia December 23, 1904; converted in his life and admitted in 1856. His active work in the Conference extended over a period of fourteen years, when failing health made it necessary for him to retire. He resumed his active relation in 1891 and died acceptably in the Church, South for five years. His feeble health again constrained him to take a Superannuated relation, which he held to the close of his life. Though hindered by a delicate constitution, he was faithful in serving large and mountainous circuits, meeting with success in winning souls to Christ and faithful in the discharge of his duties in both the pulpit and pastorate. 21:458-459.

WELTON CHARGE - LEMISBURG DISTRICT - BALTIMORE CONFERENCE

J. F. Hyde (1868-1869).

J. H. Meridith (1868-1869).

James E. Moore (1868-1869). Likely the local preacher helping complete the work of the Conference year.

E. A. Joyce (1870-1873).

J. Herbert Smith (1871).

J. W. Carter (1872).



the same capacity. He spent thirty-five years as pastor in Western Virginia and West Virginia, while here as pastor he visited Mr. Ed. Bobblett trying to set up a new hay rake which he had bought. He had so far failed; I assisted him until it was all put together, aren't you?" He married while here and the new couple roomed and boarded at Mr. Sam Sheets' home. Rev. Lambert was a graduate of Emory University at Atlanta, Georgia. He retired in 1954 and became "Master Emeritus" of the Crim Memorial Methodist Church at Phillips, West Virginia. He remained in that position until his death, January 15, 1963.

23. John Gandy (1912-1920) Assistant to S. P. Neal.

24. W. F. Lovinger (1913-1918).

25. W. A. Eye (1915-1919). The son of Benjamin and Barbara Peckode was born August 8, 1879 at Sugar Grove, West Virginia; moved from Sugar Grove to Limestone, Pennsylvania where he received license to preach in 1903 and served as junior preacher. In 1904 he was admitted into the Baltimore Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, by Lela E. Lupton of Gerrardstown, West Virginia became his bride in December, 1905. To this union there were born three children. Miss Florence Eye, a former missionary to Africa, now residing in Harrisonburg, Virginia was the oldest. He went from Hillsboro to the Union Charge. His last charge before retirement was the Montgomery Circuit, Union, Maryland. He retired in June 1945 and married as his second wife, Mrs. Florence Chapman of Harrisonburg, Virginia. He is an invalid and resides at Bridgewater, Virginia.

He says concerning Hillsboro that there were never any better folks lived than those at Hillsboro. The most significant event during his ministry here was the flu epidemic of November 1918 when there was no hospital at one time and only seven left not having the flu that were able to travel and wait upon the ill ones. Mr. Eye was one of the favored at that time.

26. George H. Eckols (1916-1920).

27. W. Clarke Early (1923-1925). A native of Staunton, Virginia; he died of a heart attack at Gaithersburg, Maryland at the age of forty years, April 4, 1923; he was admitted to the Baltimore Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church, South in 1918; ordained deacon 1920 and an elder in 1922. At first he was a junior preacher at Fairfield and Colington before coming to Hillsboro, West Virginia. He died while pastor of Frederick Avenue Methodist Church Baltimore, Maryland. The evening before his death he had preached to the District Conference on "The Unshilling Love". His wife was the former Miss Ruth Bevers and they had one son, Laurrey.

28. W. Lawson (1925-1927).

29. Barnes F. Harrison (1927-1930). He arrived in Hillsboro the fall of 1927. Some good heart-warming revivals took place during his ministry here. Their daughter, Florence, was born here. He says, "The three years that we spent in Hillsboro were years of joy, never having been among a more lovely people."

128. L. L. Lawrence (1930-1931).  
 129. G. S. Fringer (1931-1933).  
 130. W. H. Reynolds (1933-1934).  
 131. J. H. Light (1934-1936).  
 132. A. D. Kessler (1936-1937). Born at Stern Hill, three miles east of Roanoke, Virginia 1901; spent boyhood on the farm; he was a traveling salesman and later a farmer. He graduated from Jefferson Senior High School Roanoke, Virginia in 1929 and that fall entered Duke University Durham, North Carolina as a freshman. In 1933 he graduated with an A. B. degree and in 1935 with a B.B. degree. He was admitted to the Baltimore Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South in the fall of 1935 and assigned to Paint Bank Circuit. The next year he became pastor of the Levelton Circuit, Hillsboro, West Virginia. He went from here after one year to Hedgesville, West Virginia. He went the former Virginia Winkin Peters of Eagle Rock, Virginia. They have two children, A. D., Jr. and Mary.

133. L. S. Shires (1937-1943). Born in a log cabin in the Wolfe Creek Community of Monroe County, West Virginia; from infancy he was taken to Sunday School and preaching. At the age of fourteen he accepted Christ as his Savior in a revival in a school house. There he led his first prayer meeting. His father was a class leader, too. On Sunday afternoons his mother, brother and he would take their Bibles to a quiet place and read their Bibles verse about. He prized highly that experience. He later taught the one school of his boyhood and was granted a scholarship to Concord Normal School. He finished school at Randolph Haven, completing the four years course in three years. For several years he headed the Allegheny Collegiate Institute at Alderson, a Methodist school.

Coming to Hillsboro from Iron Gate, Virginia he served for five years, longer than any other pastor until then. From here he went to Williamsburg. He was a man of sterling quality, gentle, kind, full of thanksgiving, humility and a Christ-like spirit which made his ministry effective. Mr. Shires was the first man ever granted a vacation with pay by the Levelton Charge. That vacation he spent in a hospital in Baltimore. Illness overtook him in his eighteenth year in the ministry while he was pastor at Buchanan, Virginia. He retired to Iron Gate, Virginia where he continued as an invalid for years until his death.

134. E. P. Marshall (1942-1947). Born August 15, 1886 at Fabius, West Virginia, son of Samuel and Martha Fox Marshall; attended Hardy County Schools and Glenville State Teacher's College; Admitted on Trial March 30, 1917 into the Baltimore Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South and he was ordained a deacon in 1920 and an elder in 1931. Before becoming a minister he had taught school for fifteen years. He had been converted in early life. After Levelton he served the Mineral Charge at Headsville, West Virginia. He died in 1951 at Martinsburg, West Virginia. (201K. (1951 Article by the Reverend Harry Wheeler)

135. A. J. Schrader (1947-1949). Born October 15, 1922 at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; attended Pittsburgh city schools and graduated from South Hills High School; graduated from Mount Union, Alliance, Ohio with an A.B. degree June 1944; entered Boston University School of Theology

Brown student assistant to the pastor of Tremont Street Methodist Church, Boston, Massachusetts. Serving for one year; in 1945 transferred to Asbury School and completed class studies before becoming Elder here in 1947 and he was ordained deacon at Clarksburg in the fall of 1948. Elder's orders were received in 1949 at Charleston after his return to the Leveeion Charge. Returning to Duke he received his B.B. degree in 1950, transferring to the Virginia Conference his appointment to the Brooks, Virginia.

He is largely responsible for the interest in and the building of our brick parsonage next to Wesley Chapel Church. Through an auction sale the furnishings of the old parsonage were disposed of and new indoor cabinetry furniture purchased for four rooms at the new parsonage. The equipment was bought at wholesale at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and installed by the father of the minister. The marble window sills were purchased and given personally by the Reverend Schrader. The parsonage was completed and all but two thousand dollars of the debt paid during his stay here.

T. E. Painter (1949-1951). (Then an accepted Supply Pastor). During his pastorate the main and last part of the debt on the new parsonage was paid. He went to Williamson, West Virginia from here. Now is pastor of the Burlington Methodist Church at Burlington, West Virginia and is the Director of our Methodist Orphanage there.

Frank A. Johnson (1951-1955). Born at Brookside, West Virginia in 1907, son of Amaziah and Eva Long Johnson; converted at the age of thirteen called to preach at fifteen; graduated from Asbury College 1932 with an A.B. degree; received on Trial into the Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1932; ordained a deacon 1934 and an elder 1936; married Mary Elizabeth Doty in 1936 and they have one son, age fourteen. A brother is in the Virginia Conference of the Methodist Church and a brother-in-law is in the Ohio Conference of the Church. Since college he has done graduate work at Westminster Theological Seminary and at West Virginia University.

"The National Women's Christian Temperance Union in order to get more which could be published in form, had a preaching contest. Our Rev. Frank A. Johnson placed second in the Eastern Zone. The subject of his sermon was, "The Report of Demon Drink to Satanic Majesty." The honorarium was a check for fifty dollars. When the reports were all sent in of one hundred dollars." (Pocahontas Times, April 14, 1955) The sermons in the above national contest were published by the Cyclopedia Press of New York, New York in 1936. Mr. Johnson moved from Charge to the Gormanja Charge in Grant County, West Virginia and then to Garrett County Maryland. While there the Mount Storm Methodist Church 1950 the Rodeheaver-Hall Mack bought from Mr. Johnson a play for a drama service entitled, "The Star Out of Jacob" and published it the following year. It is still on sale by that Company. He is now pastor of the South Fork Charge at Brandywine, West Virginia.

Willis Summers (1955-1958). Born at Homer, West Virginia; he is the son of Mrs. Ada H. Summers and the late Roy Summers. Glenville College gave him his A.B. degree in 1945 and Westminster Theological Seminary gave him a S.T.B. degree in 1950. In 1946 he married Alice Sparks of Sparks, West Virginia and they have three daughters, Ann, Catherine Marie and Frances Marion. His first full time

Pastorate was the 1<sup>st</sup>. Zion Charge in Calhoun County in 1946. He served in the Huntington and Bluefield Districts after graduating from seminary and came from the Martley Methodist Church to the Levelton Charge. In 1957 he was honored by being elected Chairman of the Section on World Peace of the West Virginia Conference Board of Christian Social and Economic Relations.

139. Lee, E. Elam (1958-1960).

140. Paul Siegel (1960-1961).

141. Owen M. Lee (1961- Present pastor).

#### ALPHABETICAL INDEX OF PASTORS UNTIL 1963

1. Acuff, Francis
2. Akers, James
3. Armstrong, A. C.
4. Atkins, L. B.
5. Baldwin, L. H.
6. Bernard, John
7. Best, Bezekiah
8. Bird, Richard
9. Bolton, Robert
10. Boyd, Robert
11. Brodwell, Jacob L.
12. Brock\*, George E.
13. Budd, Thomas
14. Bull, John
15. Burge, Adam
16. Carson, Joseph
17. Carter, Benjamin
18. Carter, J. W.
19. Charles, James
20. Clarke, James H.
21. Collier, J. Wesley
22. Davis, James M.
23. Davis, John H.
24. Dye, Thomas J.
25. Early W. Clarke
26. Enois, George H.
27. Ellis, Samuel
28. Hutchinson, J. P.
29. Eyo, J. D.
30. Fish,
31. Fringer, G. R.
32. Gardiner, J. S.
33. Goodall, A. L.
34. Graybill, L. H.
35. Green, James H.
36. Hamill, A. C.
37. Harber, Gladiah
38. Harrison, Ernest T.
39. Hartman, C.
40. Henkle, Saul
41. Henley, Edmund
42. Hopkins, S. D.
43. Howell, John
44. Hyde, J. P.
45. Jarrison, Enoch G.
46. Johnson, Frank A.
47. Jones, James
48. Joyce, C. A.
49. Wrenson, Davis
50. Kepler, Henry S.
51. Kessler, A. D.
52. Kehler, John
53. Lambert, C. C.
54. Lawson, A.
55. Lee, Owen M.
56. Liggett, James P.
57. Light, J. H.
58. Little, George O.
59. Lowrance, L. L.
60. Lowrance, W. F.
61. Lynch, Charles
62. Marshall, R. D.
63. Martin, George
64. Matthews, Lasley
65. McClintic, Cliff P.
66. McClure, Thomas F.
67. McDowell, William
68. McInnally, Jacob
69. McKeon, Joseph S.
70. Moridith, J. E.
71. Miller, L. B.
72. Miller, John
73. Miller, J. E.
74. Miller, Nathaniel R.

Montgomery, Samuel  
 Morris, James E.  
 Morris, Christopher S.  
 Morris, Dr. W.  
 Morris, Dr. W.  
 Morris, John W.  
 Morris, T. E.  
 Morris, William  
 Phillips, Josiah  
 Powell, Joseph  
 Pease, Jr.  
 Pease, Francis  
 Pease, Samuel  
 Pease, Benedict  
 Pease, Jesse  
 Pease, Paul E.  
 Pease, James  
 Pease, Robert  
 Pease, Daniel  
 Pease, James  
 Pease, Anthony  
 Pease, Harvey  
 Pease, A. J.  
 Pease, L. S.  
 Pease, P. S. E.  
 Pease, Mrs.  
 Pease, James

108. Smith, John  
 109. Smith, J. Robert  
 106. Smith, Stephen  
 106. Snyder, Jacob  
 107. Spencer, William  
 108. Spriggs, Joseph  
 109. Start, J. V.  
 110. Stoneman, Edward  
 111. Stearns, Samuel  
 112. Stier, Frederick  
 113. Sumner, Willis  
 114. Swift, Richard  
 115. Sydenstricker, Cries  
 116. Towne, Eli  
 117. Townsend, S.  
 118. Tucker, Jonathan A.  
 119. Vandorn, J. H.  
 120. Ward, James  
 121. Waters, Lemuel C.  
 122. Watts, James  
 123. Waugh, Beverley  
 124. Weeks, Seathiel  
 125. Wheeler, V. V.  
 126. Whitehill, W. J.  
 127. York, J. M.

MEMBERS AND LOCAL PREACHERS WHO MAY HAVE HELD SERVICES AT THE  
WHITE POLE MEETING HOUSE

Jacob Cook, the brother of Valentine Cook, Sr., settled with him  
 in Union, West Virginia. They were cousins of Captain Cook, the cele-  
 brated ranger. Jacob Cook was a local preacher but traveled exten-  
 sively.

Valentine Cook, Jr. was one of the most unique characters. He was  
 born in Pennsylvania, having but few advantages, yet he managed to ac-  
 quire the rudiments of an English and German education. His fondness  
 for hunting, his providential escape from the Indians, his fine qualities  
 of mind and heart, his happy conversion under the preaching of the Method-  
 ist itinerant, his call to preach and his rapid progress at Cokesbury  
 College are attractively told in Dr. Edward Stevenson's biographical  
 sketch. "Wonderful in the pulpit; overwhelming in the discussion of  
 Methodist doctrine; useful and successful until his health failed him;  
 principal of Bethel Academy in Kentucky (The second Methodist education-  
 al institution in America); indefatigable in seeking the lost; and to  
 the very end of his life, instrumental in saving multitudes of souls, he  
 left an indelible impression on the various sections of the wide  
 world through which he traveled. He was an instance of triumph of in-  
 spiration, with long limbs, stoop shouldered, a long neck projected at

right angles from between his shoulders, remarkably low forehead, small deeply sunken hazel eyes, a prominent Roman nose, a large mouth, thin lips, yellow complexion, coarse black hair, with here and there a thread of gray - he presented an eccentric appearance that could not fail to impress its very singularity. But when he began to speak all these peculiarities were forgotten as attention was arrested by the tones of his voice and words that burned by the Spirit's mighty power into the hearts of his hearers produced wonderful effect in comforting believers and saving sinners. He died as he had lived, strong in faith, giving glory to God."

William Phoebus (---- 1785). May have been the first preacher sent to what became the Greenbrier Circuit. Born in Somerset, Connecticut in 1764; he was one of the earliest Methodist in this part of the state. After traveling about fifty years he located and studied and practiced medicine in the city of New York until 1808 when he reentered the Conference. He occupied important positions until 1821 when he became a Superintendence member. He died in 1831 at the age of seventy-seven years. He attended the Christmas Conference where the Methodist Episcopal Church was organized. He was characterized by a philosophic cast of mind, an able but not a popular preacher and possessed of literary abilities much superior to the average attainments of his fellow laborers. He edited a magazine for some time in behalf of the Methodists. His brethren pronounced him in the Minutes Obituary: "A man of great integrity of character, uniformly pious, deeply read in the Scriptures, a sound, experimental and practical preacher", and, "He sweetly fell asleep in Jesus." (Minutes of 1832).

#### THE BEAR STORY OF 1790 \*

"A family by the name of Naylor was living about the top of the Gillian mountain. Their house stood on the Stamping Creek side of the field where the Early Buckman barn now stands. The mother being sick, the father took a child of the family to the field where he was plowing and left it on a stump (likely in a hollow stump) or about the furrow. He later was horrified to see a bear carrying away his child. The alarm was screamed over the mountain side to the Cochran home. Some men gave chase to the bear and following it they found only the feet of the child. There is today a field only a short distance from where the white old Meeting House stood called the "Naylor" Field. It is on the farm of Mr. John Wimer of Millpoint, West Virginia. It was named for the child, it being the place from which the bear carried the child." 25

\*The date given by Bishop Asbury in his Journal of his visit to John McNeal's in 1790.

#### FIRST SETTLERS IN LITTLE LEVELS

John McNeal, Edward Kinnison, Charles Kinnison, Jacob Kinnison, John Hill, James Callison, Richard Hill, James Barnaides, James Lewis, John Dick, Samuel Gilliland, James Brindle, Charles Glendinning, Thomas Lewis, John Day, John Davis, Nathaniel Day, Nathan Gillison, John McConaughy, John Ponca, Stephen Seewell and the Oldmans.

VAL. ADDRESSES TO ANNUAL CONFERENCES

for the absent years from 1844 to the present time the lay  
delegates were from the other Churches of the Circuit.

SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS AND THE YEAR OF ELECTION

Joel Hill - 1895  
 B. T. G. Cook - 1908  
 Mr. T. G. Cook - 1910  
 John King - 1915  
 Frank F. Kidd - 1915  
 Samuel Sheets - 1927  
 S. B. Kirk - 1931.  
 G. V. Clendenin - 1932  
 G. H. LaSue - 1948  
 \*10. Mrs. Clinton Hill - 1956-  
 (Names present superintendent.  
 - records are very incomplete until 1895.)

END OF THE DECLARATION TO DISTRICT COMPETENCES FROM WESLEY CHAPEL  
(with dates of election or service)

1. Joseph Beard - 1871  
 2. Joel Hill - 1871  
 3. E. W. Hill - 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903.  
 4. G. R. Curry - 1897, 1898, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1906, 1908, 1910, 1911,  
     1913, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1923, 1924.  
 5. Mr. G. W. Enderidge - 1898, 1911.  
 6. Isaac McNeal - 1898.  
 7. G. W. Hall; son - 1900, 1915, 1918.  
 8. S. G. Payne - 1908, 1911, 1915.  
 9. H. W. Burgess - 1908.  
 10. Mr. W. Harper - 1916, 1917, 1923.  
 11. Samuel Sheets - 1910, 1918, 1923, 1927, 1929, 1930.  
 12. Sherman McCarty - 1917.  
 13. G. L. Carlisle - 1919, 1927.  
 14. A. C. Stillwell - 1910, 1920.  
 15. Miss Margaret LoRue - 1919, 1939, 1960.  
 16. Miss R. Rice Smith - 1920, 1930, 1933, 1944.  
 17. G. P. Hill - 1924, 1927.  
 18. Mrs. H. W. Harper - 1925.  
 19. Gilbert Morrison - 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936,  
     1937, 1938, 1939.  
 20. Mrs. Carl Beard - 1930, 1940, 1941, 1942.  
 21. R. H. Auldridge - 1930.

22. Mrs. R. H. Auldrige - 1930, 1930, 1961.
23. Frank K. Johnson - 1933, 1934.
24. Mrs. I. B. Shrader - 1934.
25. E. C. Sheets - 1935, 1938.
26. Wilbur Moore - 1935.
27. Mrs. J. H. Light - 1935.
28. Denny Buckman - 1939.
29. Mrs. G. W. Clendenin - 1939.
30. Dr. Lillie Holliday - 1942.
31. Mrs. Marvin Smith - 1943, 1944, 1945.
32. G. W. Clendenin - 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947.
33. G. H. Luttrell - 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955.
34. A. F. Walker - 1948.
35. Mrs. George Hill - 1948, 1949, 1950.
36. Lloyd Payne - 1951.
37. Mrs. Guy Kinnison - 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954.
38. Mrs. Clinton Hill - 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962.
39. Miss Jane Sheets - 1955.

#### SOME WESLEY CHAPEL LAT LEADERS

(And dates of election)

1. John Raine - 1910
2. E. P. Kidd - 1914
3. H. C. Stillwell - 1917
4. Samuel Sheets - 1919
5. George Hill - 1925
6. S. D. Kirk - 1926
7. George L. Carelffe - 1927
8. Frank K. Johnson - 1931
9. E. C. Sheets - 1938
10. Chester C. Farmer - 1951
11. Elmer Nymer - 1954
12. Denny Buckman - 1957
13. Marian Hill - 1959
14. Graham LaRue - 1961

#### PRESIDENTS OF WOMAN'S SOCIETIES OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

1. Mrs. Carl Beard - 1940
2. Mrs. Marvin Smith - 1943
3. Mrs. Lovic Vaughn - 1946
4. Mrs. George Hill - 1948
5. Mrs. Guy Kinnison - 1951
6. Miss Jane Sheets - 1954
7. Mrs. Elmer Nymer - 1956
8. Miss Margaret Luttrell - 1957
9. Mrs. Joseph Smith - 1959

#### PRESIDENTS OF MISSIONARY SOCIETY

1. Mrs. W. D. Eye - 1916
2. Miss R. Dice Smith

#### JUNIOR STEWARDS OF WESLEY CHAPEL AND THE DATE OF THEIR ELECTION

1. Wilburn George Curry - 1923
2. Gail Auldrige - 1923
3. Glen Smith - 1923
4. Tyler Pope - 1923
5. Claude Warren - 1923
6. Gilbert Morrison - 1923



George Milburn Curry  
Hillsboro, W. Va.

This is the picture of Milburn Curry when he was a senior in the Hillsboro High School and a Junior Steward at Wesley Chapel. His father before him served many years as an official of this church.

Dr. George Milburn Curry is now a member of the Editorial Board of the Methodist Church at Nashville, Tennessee.



The William Clendenen Home built at the entrance of the "Old Cave Fort Clendenen" at the mouth of "Stamping Creek." The foundation of this home can still be seen at this writing.

NAME OF THE NEWBIRTH LEAGUE PRESIDENTS

1. Mrs. Farnbridge - 1907  
 2. Mrs. Neal - 1911  
 3. Mrs. Smith - 1914  
 4. Margaret Lague - 1917

5. Mrs. Dakota Nottingham - 1930  
 6. Lewis W. Lawrence - 1931  
 7. Lucy Auldridge - 1933

PRESIDENTS OF YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

John Hill - 1944  
 Harry E. Dalton - 1946  
 Lorene Anderson - 1948  
 Janice Walker - 1949  
 Shirley Burns - 1951

6. Janice Walker - 1953  
 7. Ruth Moore - 1954  
 8. Louise Hollandsworth - 1955  
 9. Mirra Moore - 1956  
 10. Peggy Evans - 1961

STEWARDS OF BESLEY CHAPEL

(with the dates of their first election so far as known)

John Hill - 1948  
 Jim McNeill - 1948  
 G. W. Amiss - 1952  
 James Edmiston - 1952  
 George R. Curry - 1895  
 R. W. Hill - 1895  
 Ellis McCarty - 1895-1934  
 M. C. B. Kinnison - 1895  
 George G. Clendenin - 1895  
 E. H. Moore - 1895  
 Joseph S. McNeal - 1898  
 G. W. Estridge - 1898  
 H. W. Burgess - 1901  
 Frank Hill - 1902  
 G. W. Callison - 1902  
 Dr. T. G. Cook - 1907  
 H. W. Burgess - 1907  
 T. C. Burgess - 1907  
 W. D. Clark - 1907  
 S. J. Payne - 1908  
 Julian Seino - 1910  
 John Rauze - 1911  
 E. W. Callison - 1911  
 H. A. Overholt - 1913  
 H. W. Harper - 1913  
 Sherman McCarty - 1913  
 Joseph S. McNeal - 1913  
 Samuel Sheets - 1914  
 J. K. Marshall - 1917  
 A. C. Stillwell - 1917  
 S. L. Carlisle - 1919  
 George L. Clark - 1925  
 S. D. Kirk - 1925  
 George C. Clendenin - 1926  
 Herbert Morrison - 1927

36. E. C. Sheets - 1928  
 37. R. H. Auldridge - 1930  
 \*38. Miss R. Dice Smith - 1931  
 39. R. W. Rogers - 1932  
 40. Mrs. Frank Harper - 1934  
 41. Pauline Shrader - 1934  
 \*42. Mrs. G. W. Clendenin - 1935  
 \*43. A. P. Walker - 1935  
 44. Lucy Auldridge - 1935  
 45. Denny Stockman - 1938  
 46. Richard McCarty - 1938  
 47. Dr. Lillie Holiday - 1938  
 48. L. P. Anderson - 1938  
 49. Guy Kinnison - 1943  
 50. Carl A. Rundt - 1943  
 51. Elmer Wymer - 1948  
 52. C. C. Farmer - 1950  
 53. John Troutt - 1950  
 54. Mrs. Clinton Hill - 1952  
 55. Mrs. Cleveland Harvey - 1954  
 56. Remus May - 1955  
 57. Dan Shaggs - 1955  
 58. Graham Lague - 1957  
 59. Mrs. I. B. Shrader - 1957  
 60. Mrs. Georgia Vaughn - 1958  
 61. Ralph Burns - 1959  
 62. Mrs. James Workman II. - 1959  
 63. Mrs. William Fox - 1960  
 64. Mrs. Ernest Beverage - 1960  
 65. Mrs. Marion Hill - 1960  
 66. Mrs. Virgil Fowler - 1960  
 67. Mrs. Sanford Kirk - 1960  
 68. Harper Hill - 1960  
 69. Mrs. Darrel Brown - 1960  
 70. Mrs. William Workman - 1960

\* indicates present stewards.

CHURCH TRUSTEESCHURCH TRUSTEES

1. Thomas Scott - 1799
2. John E. Pinnel. - 1799
3. Richard Hill - 1799
4. Griffith Evans - 1799
5. Jacob Kinnison - 1799

6. Alexander Waddell
7. William Waddell - 1799
8. James Lewis - 1799
9. Jonathan McNeill - 1799

TRUSTEES OF "BURNED CHURCH" OR "HILL RUN CHURCH" ACADEMY, WEST VA.

10. William Edmiston - 1830
11. Andrew Edmiston - 1830
12. John Grimes - 1830
13. Richard Hill - 1830

14. Mark Kinnison - 1830
15. Abraham Hill - 1830
16. Nathaniel Kinnison - 1830

TRUSTEES OF WESLEY CHAPEL

(Time Of Election)

17. Israel J. Kinnison - 1853
18. Richard Hill - 1853
19. James Edmiston - 1853
20. George Amiss - 1853
21. Thomas Harrison - 1853
22. S. Whiting - 1853
23. J. H. Ruckman - 1853
24. S. Aldridge - 1853
25. G. W. Bachman - 1853
26. George Hill - 1895
27. N. C. B. Kinnison - 1895
28. J. H. Callison - 1895
29. J. H. Overholt - 1895
30. R. W. Hill - 1895
31. E. H. Moore - 1895
32. Isaac McNeill - 1895
33. George R. Curry - 1895
34. J. S. McNeill - 1897
35. G. W. Clendenin - 1897
36. A. R. Smith - 1897
37. Sidney Payne - 1897
38. George V. Callison - 1900
39. F. R. Hill - 1907
40. G. W. Fuller - 1909
41. Ellis McCarty - 1914
42. J. Lanty McNeal - 1917
43. P. P. Kahl - 1923
44. G. W. Clendenin - 1931
45. R. W. Rogers - 1931
46. S. D. Kirk - 1931
47. E. C. Sheets - 1931
48. G. L. Carlisle - 1932
49. A. P. Walker - 1936
50. R. Dice Smith - 1943
51. Mrs. G. W. Clendenin - 1946
52. L. P. Anderson - 1948
53. Mrs. Guy Kinnison - 1949
54. G. H. LaRue - 1948
55. Mrs. Georgia Vaughn - 1948
56. D. S. Ruckman - 1951
57. Harrel McCarty - 1950, 1954, 1957
58. Alfred Callison - 1955
59. Guy Kinnison - 1955, 1957
60. Dan Skaggs - 1955
61. William Fox - 1960 (Deceased)
62. Sanford Kirk - 1962

PARSONAGE TRUSTEES

1. James Jenkins - 1847
2. John Hill - 1847
3. Abraham Hill - 1847
4. John McNeill - 1847
5. George Turner - 1847
6. William Young - 1847
7. John H. Ruckman - 1847
8. John Wooddell - 1847
9. Nathaniel Kinnison - 1847

10. Isaac McNeill - 1907
11. J. S. McNeill - 1907
12. R. W. Hill - 1907
13. Ellis McCarty - 1907
14. Asbury R. Smith - 1907
15. S. J. Payne - 1907
16. G. W. Callison - 1907
17. F. R. Hill - 1907
18. N. C. B. Kinnison - 1914

(continued on p. 28)

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Parsonage Trustees Continued)	
J. B. Payne - 1811	29. D. S. Buckman - 1944
J. W. Harper - 1817	30. L. P. Anderson - 1948
J. C. Gilliland - 1817	31. S. D. Kirk - 1948
J. Richard McCarty - 1818	32. Mrs. I. B. Shrader - 1948
J. Walker - 1824	33. Ralph Burns - 1948
Ernest T. Garrison - 1827	34. Denver Hollandsworth - 1952
J. Lawrence - 1830	35. Charles Kramer - 1956
J. Rogers - 1831	*36. Remus May -
J. Sheets - 1834	*37. W. D. Workman -
J. LaRue - 1836	*38. Wilfred Bruffey -
* Present Trustees	

PLEDGES ON THE ADVANCE FOR CHRIST - WESLEY CHAPEL 1850

W. B. of the Woman's Society of Christian Service ....	3100.00.
W. B. of the Woman's Society of Christian Service ....	100.00.
W. B. Bible Class .....	100.00.
Methodist Youth Fellowship .....	40.00.
TOTAL	3340.00.

RULING ELDERS

Ruling Elders of the "Brick" Presbyterian Church that gave permission for Methodist Services to be held in their Church after the burning of Mill Run Church until the building of Wesley Chapel in 1853 were: George W. Poage, Samuel D. Poage and Josiah Beard.

Although this brick Church was built in 1828, in 1830 the Church without any Ruling Elders so it had to be reorganized. On August 28, 1830 Rev. Samuel Graham re-instituted the Church administrative functions of work started anew with twelve members as follows: George Poage, Josiah Beard, John Jordan, William Bradshaw, Samuel D. Poage, William Mill, Martha Poage, S. Poage, W. Poage, Nancy Cachley, Jane Bradshaw, Mrs. McDonald. The following were elected Elders: Josiah Beard, John Jordan, George Poage, and Samuel D. Poage.

John Jordan is the man who with his wife gave the land for the Mill Run Church and was buried on the site of that Church. His wife, the daughter of the Pioneer John McNeal is buried by his side. See photo.

WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

The Woman's Home Missionary Society was organized for the first time in July 1902, with eight members and Mrs. Charles Lynch as president. By the end of the year there were twenty-five members. The Home Aid followed this organization. Then following the union of the two great branches of Methodism in 1939 the Woman's Society of Christian Service was organized in 1940 with Mrs. Carl Beard as president. It consisted of two Circles; one of the Circles contained the older women and the other the younger. Both Circles became effective in the work of the Church. They paid a large sum on the "Advance for Christ" and have been paying yearly about one hundred dollars on Church insurance. There are three Circles now. (1950)

EWORTH LEAGUE AND YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

The first record of an Epworth League at Wesley Chapel is in 1895. For a short time it ceased to function but was reorganized by Dr. C. V. Eskridge in the early 1900's with a membership of thirty-five and it met twice a week on Sunday and Tuesday evenings. This League bought a window for a new Church at Selby, Virginia on July 30, 1909. For two years, 1912, 1913, it paid an African Special of twenty-five dollars per year. Honor came to the organization in 1918 when it won both the County and District banners at the District Convention held at Durbin, West Virginia. In 1923 the League assumed and paid two hundred dollars toward the painting of the Church inside and out. The highest membership was attained in March, 1931.

The Epworth League changed to the Youth Fellowship and it set a second high record of membership with fifty-five members in 1948. In this year great prominence came to the Methodist Youth Fellowship of Wesley Chapel when through the efforts of the Reverend A. J. Schrader eleven members attended the National Youth Fellowship Conference in Cleveland, Ohio. In 1949 the Fellowship pledged and paid two hundred dollars on the new parsonage. In 1951 it paid forty dollars on the "Advance for Christ".

COMMITTEES ON BUILDING PARSONAGE - ELECTED MAY 10, 1948Advisory

1. S. D. Kirk	5. E. S. Newman	9. Mrs. T. H. Elmore
2. A. F. Walker	6. Clyde Auldrige	10. Mrs. Dorsey May
3. G. H. LaRue	7. Mrs. Mary Hogsett	11. Milton Vaughan
4. E. C. Sheets	8. Boyd Milley	12. L. P. Anderson

Correspondence

1. Miss Ethel May	4. Mrs. Milton Vaughan	7. Mrs. George Clendenin
2. Mrs. Earl Slavin	5. Mrs. May McClain	8. Mrs. George Hill
3. Mrs. Walter Arbogast	6. Mrs. Clarke Gurn	9. Mrs. I. B. Shrader

Subscription

1. E. S. Newman, chairman	6. Remus May	10. Mrs. Mary Hogsett
2. Clyde Auldrige	7. Milton Vaughan	11. L. P. Anderson
3. Boyd Milley	8. S. D. Kirk	12. A. F. Walker
4. Mrs. Walter Arbogast	9. Ralph Burns	13. Mrs. I. B. Shrader

Inspection

1. Ralph Burns	5. Mrs. H. T. Elmore
2. L. P. Anderson	6. Mrs. Dorsey May
3. A. F. Walker	7. Mrs. Mary Hogsett
4. E. S. Newman	8. Milton Vaughan

1955 FURNISHINGS OF THE PRESENT PARSONAGE

Imported mahogany furniture for the living room, dining room, and two bed rooms was bought from the James Electrical Company of Mehana,

North Carolina. The Company gave a large discount, and the total fact-  
ure cost was \$751.00. Expense of the trip to bring the furniture was  
about nine dollars and fifty cents. The sinks, cabinets, lights and  
fixtures of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The Reverend Schrader and  
his slaves in Pittsburgh came to Hillsboro and installed the fixtures.  
An electric refrigerator, range and water heater were supplied by Mr.  
A. Kirk at a reduced price. On the main floor of the parsonage the  
floor tiles are of marble, a gift of the Reverend A. J. Schrader. The  
door panels and frames throughout the house are of aluminum. The table  
chairs in the kitchen are from the Woman's Society of Christian  
Service of Wesley Chapel, coming as their gift.

THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED LABOR ON THE PARSONAGE GARAGE - 1951

S. S. Newman - Marvin Chapel  
Dorothy Hollandsworth - Sharon  
Doris Wymer  
G. C. Sheets  
Gilbert Morrison  
Denny Hollandsworth furnished an electric power saw.  
A. Killingsworth furnished a brick cutter.  
Mrs. Frank A. Johnson furnished some meals for the workers.

S. I. B. Shrader  
D. B. Buckman installed side door.  
Cleveland Miller  
Frank A. Johnson, framed roof etc.  
Hilton Vaughan - Emmanuel

PARSONAGE DEDICATION SERVICE HILLSBORO, WEST VIRGINIA AUG. 28, 1951

600 P. M. at Wesley Chapel  
The Prelude - Miss B. Dice Smith  
Call to worship - Choir  
Hymn: "Come, Thou God of Grace." #550. - Giardini  
Invocation concluded by the Lord's Prayer: Rev. T. E. Painter  
Solo: "First Psalm" - Robert Auldrige of New York City.  
Responsive Reading: "Family Religion" page 563. - Rev. Clyde Hensley  
Gloria Patria  
Prayer: Rev. A. J. Schrader

Hymn: "Faith of Our Fathers" #256 - Henry  
Offering for parsonage Fund:

Offertory and Presentation of Offering  
Hymn: "Lead On O King Eternal" #278 - Smart  
The Dedication Sermon: Bishop Lloyd C. Wicke of Pittsburgh.

Prayer: Bishop Wicke

600 P. M. At the Parsonage.  
Sentences of Praise: Bishop Lloyd C. Wicke, "Peace Be To This House"  
Hymn: "Oh Thou Whose Hand Heth Brought Us" #651 - Webb  
Prayer: The Reverend Clyde Hensley, District Superintendent of the  
Lewisburg District of the Methodist Church.  
Solo: "Bless This House" - Mr. Robert Auldrige.

ACT OF DEDICATION:  
Trustees: "We present this building to be dedicated to the Glory  
of God and as a home for the Methodist Ministers and  
their families who are assigned to this Charge." (A. F.  
Walker and the other Trustees.) See list.

(Dedication Continued)

Bishop Wicks: "By what name shall it be called?

People: ---- "It shall be called, "The Parsonage of the Levelton Charge  
of the Methodist Church."

Bishop Wicks: "In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy  
Spirit, we dedicate this home to the glory of God, committ-  
ing to His loving care this house and all who dwell in it.  
People: ---- "Have Thou respect unto the prayer of thy servant, that  
Thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day.

Bishop Wicks: "We dedicate this home to the deep affections of the family,  
circle, and to all friendly hospitalities.

People: .... "Our Lord Jesus Christ make you abound and increase in love,

Bishop Wicks: "We dedicate this house to happiness, to hopefulness and to  
health, that it may ever be to those whose home it is, a  
dear haven of peace and joy.

People: .... "Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth, peace, good will  
toward men.

Bishop Wicks: "We dedicate this parsonage home with deep gratitude for  
loyal comrades who have made with us this good adventure;  
and with high hope for those who shall walk this way in  
days to come.

People: .... "Glory be to Thee, O Lord Most High. Amen.

Prayer:

Benediction.

#### JOSEPH BEARD

For many years Mr. Joseph Beard was quite prominent in the affairs  
of Wesley Chapel. His big black dog always accompanied him to Church  
and lay quietly in the aisle by his master's side in what appeared to be  
perfect reverence. Mr. Beard was very particular in his manner of dress.  
His old black walnut clothes cupboard is now in the home of the late  
Mrs. Joseph S. McNeal at Hillsboro, West Virginia. This cupboard was  
the handiwork of Mr. Asbury T. Smith. The top was for clothing storage  
and the bottom for boots. Mr. Beard represented his Church as a lay  
man perhaps more than other in the Baltimore Conference before 1800.

#### RECENT CHURCH AND PARSONAGE IMPROVEMENTS.

At a Quarterly Conference held September 15, 1951, with Rev. Frank  
A. Johnson acting as chairman, the building of a garage for the use of  
the occupants of the parsonage was authorized and the following building  
Committee named: F. H. Burns, D. S. Ruckman, Harold Elmore, E. S. Keene,  
D. R. Hollandsorth, A. P. Walker, Dorsey May and M. D. Vaughan. The  
pastor and E. S. Newman broke ground and dug the foundation ditches.  
The plan called for a red brick-crete garage with cement floor, four-  
teen by twenty-eight feet in size, with one window on the west side and  
a common door on the north side, at the main entrance a metal overhead  
sliding door. Brick laying constituted the only labor costs. The pastor  
assisted by several interested parishioners framed it, installed the  
window and metal door. The wooden door was hung by D. S. Ruckman. The  
total cost of the garage was \$672.13.

Two floor-to-ceiling bookcases were built in the pastor's study  
this same year by Mr. Graham LaRue and the pastor, Frank A. Johnson.

Grounds at Wesley Chapel have been improved and at the parsonage were several foundation plantings have been made. Flower beds add color and beauty to approaches. A power mower helps keep the lawn presentable. The Norway Spruce were purchased and planted by Frank A. Johnson from a nursery in Maine.

The floors were refinished in 1962 and look the best that they have ever looked. Lovely new carpet has been laid on the dais and aisles of the main auditorium. It shows the remarkable work of many loving hearts.

### THE RICHARD HILL FAMILY

Richard Hill - Born July 13, 1763 - Died June 4, 1840.

Annie McNeal Hill - Born June 21, 1769 - Died December 10, 1861.

#### Children

1. Thomas Hill - Born August 17, 1788 - Died February 18, 1865.
2. Elizabeth Hill - Born September 7, 1790
3. John Hill - Born July 29, 1792 - Died December 25, 1869.
4. Martha Hill - Born August 25, 1795.
5. Peggy Hill - Born August 10, 1797.
6. Abraham Hill - Born December 3, 1799 - Died January 6, 1871.
7. Jessie Hill - Born July 23, 1802
8. William Hill - Born December 27, 1804
9. Joel Hill - Born February 23, 1807 - Died February 18, 1884
10. George Hill - Born June 3, 1811

### THE JOHN MCNEAL FAMILY

John McNeal - Born 1745 and died at the age eighty in 1825

Martha Davis McNeal - Born 1742 or 1743 and died in 1830 at age of 88 yrs.

#### Children

Abraham - Born in 1767; Married Margaret Lamb - Had one daughter.  
Died 1826 " Elizabeth Bridges " three sons.  
3rd Madeline Haines " two sons

John boy (unnamed) born while the father was at Point Pleasant and buried on Mount Tabor back of the Meeting House under a tree in a grave dug by the mother. (October, 1770)

Isaac - Born 1775. Married Rachael McKeever - Had four sons and four daughters.

Married Ann Seybert - had two sons and five daughters.

William - Born in 1776 and died 1857; Married John Jordan and had five sons and three daughters.

Lucy - Born 1789; died 1861. She had seven sons and three daughters. Her husband was the pioneer Richard Hill and lived on Hill's Creek.

Martha - Married Griffith Evans and moved west after a few years.

The above comes partly from the old Welsh Bible brought to the Littleton by Martha Davis McNeal, from McNeal history in the possession of S. Edwin Bruffey of Beard, West Virginia and part from the inscriptions on the grave stones in the McNeal Cemetery. (See pictures in illustrations.)

### THE KINNISON

The Kinnison family is of English origin. John Kinnison is the founder, it seems, of the American line. He came to the Massachusetts Bay Colony from Bristol, England. He was a contributor to the Portsmouth Church of New Hampshire in 1686. His house was burned and he was killed by the Indians in King Phillip's War in 1677.

Some claim that David Kinnison of the fourth generation was the father of Charles and Jacob Kinnison, pioneers of Little Levels and founders of the White Pole Meeting House with John McNeal. This is hardly probable, but there is no doubt as to the fact of some blood relationship. David was born at Old Kingston, New Hampshire in 1736 and died in Chicago, Illinois at the age of one hundred fifteen years. His grave is in Lincoln Park, Illinois and is marked by the DAR and SAR monument honoring him as being the last survivor of the famous Boston Tea Party which occurred at Griffin's Wharf, Boston, Massachusetts, on December 16, 1773. He helped throw the tea into the harbor. He, also, served in the American Revolution and the War of 1812. A family tradition is that when David threw the tea into the harbor that he threw the "T" out of his name. David Kinnison had four wives and twenty-two children.

Charles Kinnison came to Little Levels in 1765 with his brother Jacob. Charles married Martha Day. (See Supplements: John Day). Their first child born here in 1767 was called "David". Here Charles acquired large and extensive tracts of land, from land grants from the Commonwealth of Virginia, part of which was named Kinnison Mountain in his honor. This mountain is east of Hillsboro and still bears the same name. As a private in Captain Stuart's Company of Greenbrier Volunteers of Botetourt County, Virginia under the command of General Lewis, he was wounded in the Battle of Point Pleasant, October 10, 1774. Charles and Jacob were among the first members of the White Pole Meeting House Methodists of the Little Levels built on Mount Tabor. Jacob became a trustee in 1799.

### JOHN DAY

John Day was born June 30, 1762 in Buck County, Pennsylvania. He lived on the Greenbrier river in 1785. In this region he served as a scout (1775-1776) for about eighteen months. He was the brother of David, Sally and Martha Day. Martha married Charles Kinnison.

Here is the account he gives in one of his letters now recorded in "Kegley's Virginia Frontier" by P. B. Kegley concerning the capture of his mother and sisters, also, some experiences as a scout:

"The Shawnee Indians had come into Botetourt County in the State of Virginia and killed my brother, David Day, and had taken my mother and two sisters, Sally and Martha Day, prisoners and had also taken some other property, and made for their town. The first night the Indians camped on the Mountain Gap Caper and Cedar Creek and at that camp killed my Mother, Susan Day, formerly Susan Wylie, daughter of James Wylie, Cap. Fry raised twenty men of which I was one and we followed and when we came to the Indian camp aforesaid, there lay my Mother dead and stripped naked her head skinned, and we lifted her and laid her between two rocks and laid some rocks over her, and followed on after the Indians.

The second day we came in sight of them at their camp, and I gained

... run, to shoot one of them and just as I was about to draw trigger I saw one of my sister's rise up right before the muzzle of my gun, between me and the Indian, and I was so alarmed at seeing my sister rise before my brake and run, leaving the prisoners and what they had at camp and the Indians left at the camp and brought all safe to the post. After that, I volunteered under Captain Paxton and marched to the post at the south of New River. ...

After I returned home, the Indians were still troublesome about Fort and Days Fort during the remainder of the British War and I, and my Cook appointed me to range as spy in Botetourt County around the fort, to discover if there were any Indian signs in these parts, and under this appointment I acted during the remainder of the British War, and so sometime after it was over, The Indians were at war, so as to keep the people forted all the time. The time I acted as spy here (Little Levels) was about one year and six months but think the time of it added together, would be more than that. On the 20th of the Greenbrier in Virginia while I was spy John Bridges and John Bridges were killed by the Indians, scalped and stripped within a mile and a half of the Fort (Days) and I was near falling into the hands of the Indians while helping others to escape from them."

Four years after Cornwallis was taken John Day moved to Green County, Tennessee, where he died in 1833. \*14187, 88.

### THE INDIANS ATTACK

"After the attack on Donnelly's Fort in May 1778, the Indians made an attempt to affect farther mischief in the Greenbrier County, until the year. The Fort at Point Pleasant guarded the principal pass to the settlements on the Kanawha, in the Little Levels, and on Greenbrier River, and the reception with which they had met at Colonel Donnelly's convinced them that there was not much to be gained by incursions into that region of the frontiers. But as they were now making great preparations for effectual operations against the whole border country, a party of Indians was dispatched to this portion of it at once for the purpose of rapacity and murder, and to ascertain the state of the country and its capacity to resist invasion.

The party they sent into Greenbrier consisted of twenty-two warriors, and committed their first act of atrocity near the house of Lawrence Grinnan, a few miles above Little Levels. Henry Baker and Richard Hill, who were then staying there, going early in the morning to the river to wash, were shot at by them. Baker was killed, but Hill escaped back to the house. When the Indians fired at Baker he was near a fence between the river and Grinnan's and within gunshot of the latter place, springing to cross the fence for the purpose of scalping him, they seized him up, and with a pole fastening a noose around his neck, drew him down the river bank and scalped and left him there.

Apprehensive of an attack on the house, Mr. Grinnan made such preparations as were in his power to repel them and dispatched a servant to the Little Levels, with the intelligence and to procure assistance. He recently returned with twenty men, who remained there during the night, and in the morning, seeing nothing to contradict the belief that the Indians

dians had departed, they buried Baker, and set out on their return to the "Levels", taking with them all who were at Brinnin's and most of his property. Arrived at the fork of the road, a question arose whether they should take the main route leading through the gap, which was deemed a favorable situation for an ambuscade, or continue on the farther but open and secure way. A majority preferred the latter, but two young men by the names of Bridger, separated from the others and traveling on the nearest path, were killed at the place where it was feared danger might be lurking.

They next went to a house occupied by Thomas Brinnin and a Mr. Smith with their families, where they made prisoners of Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Brinnin and a child; and going then towards their towns, killed on the way an old gentleman by the name of Monday and his wife. This was the last outrage committed by the Indians in the Greenbrier Settlement.

The Bridger men were killed on what is now the E. S. Newman Farm. (According to Dr. Douglas McNeill, this likely took place in 1786.)

\*36:291-293.

#### PORTS

PORT BURNSIDE: On the Greenbrier river likely on an island near what used to be the Burnside rail road station of the C & O Railroad below Sechart, West Virginia. "James Burnside was one of the earliest settlers along the river." He is listed as a settler in 1753 and as having land surveys on the Greenbrier by 1750-1752 and 1754. "In 1773 his place was well known and seems to have been a stopping place for explorers. In that year we find that John Alderson, Curtis Alderson, Joseph Carroll, William Morris, John Herd from Shenandoah County were there as lodgers on their way to take up lands on the New River; at this place they were joined by Archibald Taylor, Philip Cooper and Walter Kelley. Burnside seems to have been a trader." "Scouts" were often at Fort Wood on Rich Creek and patrolled the country for thirty miles or more until they met those from Fort Burnside." 37: 38:.

PORT DAY: Called Fort Beckley or Cackley and Fort Price located on the little hill just above the Big Spring at Millpoint where the late Mr. J. Lanty McNeal's house now stands. "From the middle of April (1770) until the middle of October spies were kept scouring the country from Fort Lick on Elk River to Brinnin's Fort and Fort Beckley in the Little Levels." 38:14: John Day acted as Colonial Scout during the Revolutionary War and was stationed at Fort Day (likely named for him) to cover the distance from Fort Day to Fort Ellis.

PORT ELLIS: Location not known today.

PORT CLENDENEN: (Little levels) Situated at the mouth of Stamping Creek, in 1780 a cave-fort made of stone on the land owned by William Clendenen of 1785. See picture of the Clendenen home built later at the Fort entrance. This picture is in the possession of G. W. Clendenen at his

... in Hillsboro, West Virginia.

~~WILLIAM AUSTIN~~, Wallace Austin's Fort was near the present boundary of Pocahontas County and Greenbrier County. It may have been on the site of the Troop Mountain Log Church. \*1:

CACKERT'S POST OFFICE - POCAHONTAS COUNTY - 1834

(This is now the Millpoint Post Office in the upper part of Little Levels.) It contains several dwellings; one mercantile store; one oil mill; one carding machine; one tan yard, etc. The country around is mostly level and fertile, producing well, Indian corn, wheat, rye, oats, potatoes, flax, etc., and is an excellent grass country. This is called Little Levels. First rate springs abound in almost every direction and most of them sink again after running a short distance. (From Joseph Martin's, "Gazetteer of Virginia", published in 1835.)

SOME PEOPLE OF PROMINENCE WHO HAVE LIVED IN HILLSBORO

1. Mrs. Pearl Buck was born in Hillsboro, West Virginia in the house now owned by Mrs. John Townsend, a short distance along on the main S. S. Highway #219 east of the Corporation. She is the most famous West Virginia author.
2. The Reverend Doctor George Wilburn Curry, whose father had great prominence in Wesley Chapel, was born in what is now the Richard Curtry home and grew to manhood in this community. He was among the first young men to be elected as a Junior Steward of Wesley Chapel. He attended Ashbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky, West Virginia Institute of Theology and Candler School of Theology. He became District Superintendent of the Parkersburg District of the Methodist Church in the West Virginia Annual Conference and sometime later joined the Editorial Board of the Methodist Church located at Nashville, Tennessee. He is still helping to produce our great Church literature.
3. The Mr. Fenton Chapman; a resident of Hillsboro is the oldest member living of the Young Men's Christian Association. He was converted in services held by that organization. For a short time as a young man he belonged to Wesley Chapel. He is now a member of the Oak Grove Presbyterian Church.
4. Miss Roberta Dice Smith, a life-long resident of Hillsboro, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Asbury Smith and the granddaughter of the Reverend Stephen Smith, was honored as the "Teacher of the Year" for Pocahontas County for the year 1968 chosen by the Marlinton Woman's Club. The principles for her selection were: scholastic achievement, teaching

experience, humanitarian attitude toward students, outstanding work beyond the call of duty and interest in community, state and national affairs. This award came after thirty-five years of public school teaching. She taught her first year at Elkton, Virginia. Then for eleven years, during her mother's illness, she stayed at home nursing and caring for her parents until their death in 1923. The following year Miss Smith began teaching in Hillsboro. That year her sister-in-law died leaving six children, the oldest fourteen and the two youngest being seven year old twins. She brought them to her home and cared for them until all were through High School and were able to do for themselves. During this time her teaching continued at Hillsboro. She is a member of Wesley Chapel, the Woman's Society of Christian Service, a steward, teaches the Ladies' Bible Class and plays the piano for the Church Services. She loves teaching; loves and inspires her pupils. To meet her is to love her.

ANCESTORS AND DESCENDANTS OF  
WILLIAM HENRY KINNISON  
OF  
ANGUS, NEBRASKA

Oliver Wendell Holmes, one of the most famous Justices of the U. S. Supreme Court said: "While there is no disgrace in not having a definite line of ancestry to look back upon, still it is very much better to have one." In the light of this statement on American Civil Law, the following ancestral history has been edited by Mr. Don E. Kinnison of Berkely, California, only and eldest son of the eldest son of William Henry Kinnison of Angus, and Mrs. Charles W. Skinner (Gertrude Kinnison McIver), his daughter. This chart has been edited for the benefit of posterity and for the information of the grandchildren and great grandchildren of William Henry Kinnison.

(This information is on file at the National Clearing House of Genealogical Information, The Institute of American Genealogy, 407 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois, and is to be published in the *Compendium of American Genealogy, First Families of America, Vol. VIII.*)

FIRST GENERATION: John Keniston, founder of the line in America, came to the Massachusetts Bay Colony from Bristol Gloucester county, England, and was on the list of those that came to Portsmouth, New Hampshire, after 1638. He was somehow descended from the Royal English Landed Gentry Family of Kynaston, which had its origin at Tre-gynvarth, Shropshire County (Salop), England. He contributed to the Portsmouth Puritan Church in 1660; was taxed at Dover in 1669, 1671 and 1674. He was killed and his home burned by the Indians in King Phillip's War at Graveland, New Hampshire, on April 16, 1677. His estate was administered by his wife Agnes Magoon, and their second son was:

SECOND GENERATION: Christopher Keniston, married at Exeter, New Hampshire, on December 1, 1677, to Mary Moshamore. He served in King Phillip's War and was in Major Appleton's Company. Their fifth child,

**SEVEN GENERATIONS:** Samuel Kinnison, who married at Stratham, New Hampshire, on December 23, 1723, Ruth Bundleit. He was in the strongest body of the Minutemen at Greenfield the next year. They lived at Old Kingston, their home, for many years, and then, in 1775, moved to New Haven, Massachusetts, and at the outbreak of the Revolution, when they were residing at Lebanon, Maine. Their third child was David Kinnison, son, who was born at Old Kingston, New Hampshire, on November 17, 1756, and who died at Chicago, Illinois, on January 24, 1852, at the age of 95 years. His grave is in Lincoln Cemetery, Illinois, is marked by a tall and SAR monument honoring David as the last survivor of the famous Boston Tea Party, which occurred at Griffin's wharf, Boston, Massachusetts on December 16, 1773. He also served in The American Revolution, and helped throw the tea into the harbor. He also served in The American Revolution, and was one of the founders of the town of Andover. A family tradition is that the name was "Kinnison" before the Boston Tea Party and that when David threw the tea into the harbor, he also threw the "t" out of his name. Hence, any people named Kinnison, Kinnis, Kinnison, Kinnereon, etc., all without the "t" are related to us, however, distantly; but those with the extra letter are pre-Revolutionary War relatives, if any at all. David Kinnison had four sons and twenty-two children. Among them were:

**EIGHT GENERATIONS:** Charles and Jacob Kinnison, who were among the first settlers to cross the Allegheny mountains to settle and found what is now Hillsboro, West Virginia, Pocahontas County in 1763. Charles was born in 1750 and died in 1826 in Ohio. At Hillsboro he acquired large and extensive tracts of land, part of which he named "Kinnison Mountain" in his honor. This mountain is northwest of Hillsboro, and still bears the same name. There is also a small stream that empties into the Greenbrier River that was also named in his honor, and is called "Kinnison's Run". He served in the Revolutionary War and was a private in Capt. Stewart's Company of Greenbrier County Volunteers under the command of General Lewis, and was mustered into the service at Camp Union, Virginia. He was wounded in the Battle of Point Pleasant, Lord Dunmore's War, on the Ohio River, on October 10, 1774. This is considered to be the first major engagement of the American Revolution. He was an early Methodist; his wife was Martha Day, who was killed by the Indians in one of their savage attacks on Hillsboro, West Virginia. Their fifth child was:

**NINE GENERATIONS:** Amos Kinnison. Born on January 9, 1780, and died March 19, 1860. He married Nancy Coesbent in 1802, who was born on May 24, 1785 and died March 18, 1870. Both are interred in the O'Neal Cemetery, Hillsboro, West Virginia. Their second son was:

**TEN GENERATIONS:** David Clayborn Kinnison. Born on June 24, 1812 near Hillsboro, in Pocahontas County, West Virginia. (At that time it was Greenbrier County, Virginia!) Died December 29, 1883, at Beaver, Brooke County, Ohio, having migrated there during the early statehood of Ohio, and making it his home for the rest of his life. Family tradition is that he was captured by the Confederates during the Civil War and died of pneumonia in one of their prison camps after several weeks exposure to cold weather. He had four sons that served in the service of the Union Army. They are as follows: Charles Henry, David, Hiram, and Jacob Michael. His wife was Catherine Bykes, (sometimes spelled Byke) who was born September 1815 in Virginia and who died in Pike County, Ohio, in 1889. (All the above copied from Ben Kinnison's Journals.)

## THE CLENDENNING FAMILY

I. Archibald ClendenningII. Charles Clendenning slain by the Indians.III. George ClendenningCharles ClendenningIV. William Clendenning married Sallie Cochran in 1780.  
He settled on the Burgess place near Hillsboro occupied by John Payne in 1801.V. John Clendenning married Catheryn Seybert and settled at Beard's Hill. He was baptized by the Rev. John McElhenney as a mere child. He had six sons, Catheryn at his death married Jacob Kiam son 1822.VI. \*William Clendenning, II, was apprentice of Bayless G. Rupp of Frankfort. He married Jane Cochran and settled on the Seybert Place at the Mouth of Stamping Creek. (See picture of them at their home.)John Clendenning married Rebecca Bird and lived at Byrd's Hill in Upper Greenbrier.James Clendenning died in youth.Sally Clendenning cared for her parents.

\*  
William Clendenning is the grandfather of Mr. George Clendenning, who lives in Hillsboro in his home next to the birthplace of Mrs. Pearl Buck. (See picture of Buck birthplace.)

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2. Armstrong, James E. "History of the Old Baltimore Conference".  
Baltimore, 1807.

3. Asbury, Bishop Francis, "Journal of the Rev. Francis Asbury of the  
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4. Babbitt, A. "Old Welsh Bible of Martha Davis" brought to the Little  
Levels by Martha Davis McNeal about 1765 and now in the possession  
of Mary Thrasher, Bridgewater, Virginia. (Containing family data.)

5. B. "Barnside Family Bible" now in the possession of Fred  
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6. C. "Holy Bible" King James Version.

7. Bradley, Sidney B. "Life of Bishop Richard Chattock". Louisville,  
1906.

8. Callahan, James Morton, "Semi-Centennial History of West Virginia",  
1913. (Semi-Centennial Commission of West Virginia)

9. Deed Books: A. "Pocahontas County Court Books". Marlinton, West  
Virginia.

B. "Botetourt County Court Books". Pinesdale, Virginia

10. Fleming, John Kerr, "History of Oak Grove Church".

11. Fry, Rose W. "Recollections of the Rev. John McElhenny, D. D."  
Richmond, 1893.

12. Green, Henry S. "Biennial Report of the Department of Archives and  
History of West Virginia 1911-1914". Charleston, 1914.

13. Hardisty, E. H. "Hardisty's Historical and Geographical Encyclopedia"  
"Special History of the Virginias" "Maps and Histories of Green-  
brier, Pocahontas and Monroe Counties, West Virginia". New York,  
1883.

14. Hedges, J. W. "Crowned Victories". Baltimore, 1878.

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